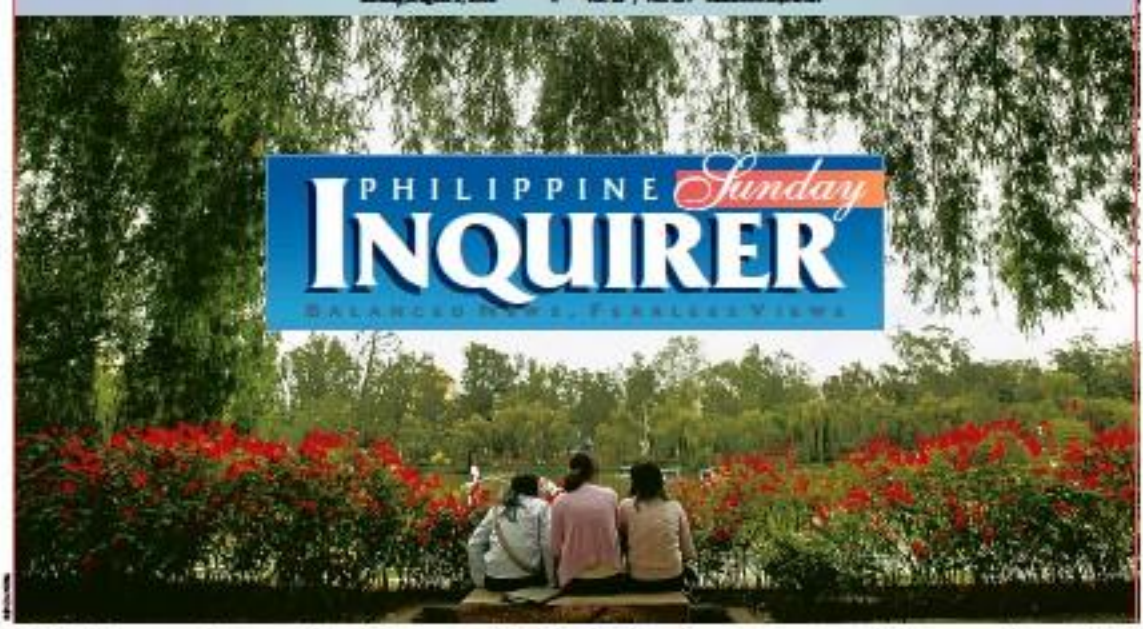
Sunday, August 3, 2008 • VOL. 22 / NO. 329 philippine inquirer

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



BAGUIO'S BEST These women are framed by trees and flowers in Burnham Lake park in Baguio City, which celebrated city-scape greenery has become a rare sight in the country's premier resort destination.

Bangsamoro state eyed

Corruption bugs Court of Appeals, says Salonga

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT JOVITO Salonga yesterday confirmed the purported corruption in the Court of Appeals and said reforms were urgently needed.

"It is true that there is bribery in the appellate court," the 88-year-old founder of the judiciary watchdog group Bantay Katarungan told the reporter. "It should be stopped. The bribery should be exposed. It should be the beginning of legal reforms in our system of justice."

Salonga, mentor to a number of magistrates and a frequent antagonist of the Supreme Court, made the remarks in reaction to the exchange of accusations of bribery and corruption between Associate Justice Jose Sabio Jr. and businessman Ricardo de Borja in connection with the case involving Manila Electric Co. and the Government Service Insurance System.

Asked whether Sabio's claim of a P10-million offer for him to inhibit himself from the case was a positive development, Salonga said: "Yes. Undoubtedly."

He said Sabio's revelations in connection with the case that was resolved in favor of Meralco were yet another indication of the need to reform the appellate and other courts.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, dean emeritus of the Ateneo de Manila School of Law,

CONTINUED A 11

MOA between gov't, MILF to be signed Tuesday

By Fe Zamora

A NEW STATE WITH "A DEFINED TERRITORY" AND "A SYSTEM of governance suitable and acceptable to [the Bangsamoro] as a distinct dominant people" will be established in Mindanao under the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Ancestral Domain between the Philippine government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Under the proposed agreement, which is scheduled to be signed on Tuesday, the planned Bangsamoro homeland will have its own "basic law," its own police and internal security force, and its own system of banking and finance, civil service, education and legislative and electoral institutions, as well as full authority to develop and dispose of minerals and other natural resources within its territory.

Copies of the draft MOA were distributed to retired generals during a forum on July 24 in Camp Aguinaldo, where Norwegian Espen Barth Eide, President Macapagal Arroyo's adviser on the peace process, was the guest of honor. The Inquirer obtained a copy.

But Bangsamoro matters play in the peace process said the proposed agreement with the MILF would require amending the Constitution.

They said its provisions on territory

MANDATE/POLICE A 10

PHOTO OF THE YEAR ('07)

The winner of the 2008 Press Photo Award, photojournalism's Oscars, shows a cat's mother reacting in pain to her kitten's ignominious fate for Vanity Fair by Tim Hetherington to the cats released a story today. It's now on exhibit along with 185 photos at the Podium until Aug. 7 before moving to Mall of Asia Aug. 8–13; SM North Edsa Aug. 14–21. The winning images by 58 Pulitzer prize photojournalists compared by photos from the heart.

Filipino arm wrestling champ to defend world title this month

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

THERE'S NO MONEY INVOLVED IN his defense of his heavyweight championship title in arm wrestling but Brendan Buenaflor says a victory for him in the 25th world Firefighters Games is "very important for us Filipinos."

Buenaflor, a 34-year-old fire officer in Davao City, is defending his crown in the arm wrestling contest to be held on Aug. 24 in Liverpool, England.

"The best that I can do is to promise to perform well to defend the title," said Buenaflor, who has been a firefighter officer for the past 10 years.

He said he would give his best "as I did with my other games."

Conducted every two years, the world Firefighters Games started in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1980 through the initiative of a committee of international firefighters and a US entrepreneur. The competitions were last held in Hong Kong in 2006, where

FILIPINOS A 10

Teaching Baseco kids to dream big

By Tarra Quismundo

THE MOMENT HE ESPIED RINCED MARking out with crayons on a clean sheet of paper, sixth grader Isabel Catalan started to dream about becoming an architect.

Though still in grade school at age 12, Mayka Rosario learned she could aspire to be a doctor.

From their crowded regular classrooms, a select group of elementary school pupils from poor families has been chosen to take remedial instruction in a study center at the Baseco Compound in Manila. Here they learn to aim big with the help of two tutors who make up for what their regular schools lack.

Regarded as mentors more than tutors, Laurel Salonga and Ivy Raphael, graduates of the University of the Philippines, are providing a hands-on

TEACHING A 11

CECILE LICAD

Cecile Licad breaks 'Rach 3' sex barrier

By Pablo A. Tariman
Chief Critic

FOR DECADES, RACHMANINOFF'S PIANO Concerto No. 3 has remained the domain of male pianists with huge hands.

Then along comes dainty Filipino Cecile Licad who has proven that a good female pianist can play "Rach 3." She rocks.

Twice in a row last month, Licad received wild, cheering ovations in her latest foray into this technically demanding concerto, as soloist of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of JoAnn Falletta, mentor of Filipino-American conductor Eugene Castillo.

Reporting from Lewiston, New York, where the Buffalo Philharmonic played, Amerikan critic Mary Rose Goldman wrote: "Cecile Licad has the goods. The Filipino-born pianist proved that is a technically stunning performance of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto. Mastering that concerto is quite a feat. It was the centerpiece of

CECILE A7

Low-tech transport for automated polls

By Kristine L. Alave

BY HORSE, CARABAO AND BANCA.

This is how the Commission on Elections plans to transport the state-of-the-art, touch-screen voting machines to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for the elections next week.

LOW-TECH A 10

• PALACE resigned to ARMM polls on Aug. 11 NEWS / A 4 • NPA rebels hit 6 cell sites in Bicol NEWS / A 16

• STARS FROM fierce rival networks hail King Dolphy ENTERTAINMENT

• THE NEXT wave: 11 talents on the rise in 2008 SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

• WHO'S WHO at Inquirer Lifestyle Must-Go-To where Fitness meets Fashion • Romance of a 28-year-old man with a 50-ish woman, how does it work? Or, how Vicki Belo holds on to her Hayden • Young widow comes to grips with husband's mysterious death • Find out why Aug. 8, 2008, may not be so lucky SUNDAY LIFESTYLE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY...cum are mostly all regions most, also are scattered rainshowers or thunderstorms. Metro will be cloudy to cloudy most also with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Baguio	Cloudy with Rain	Iloilo/Roxas	Cloudy with Rain
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rain	Cebu	Cloudy with Rain
Laoag	Cloudy with Rain	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rain
Clark	Cloudy with Rain	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rain	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catbalogan	Cloudy with Rain	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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23 13 | 0 5 6 0 1 4

(In sequential order)

2PM Draw: SUERTRES 5PM Draw:

2 0 4 | 6 1 5

9PM Draw:

6 5 1

6/42 LUZ/MIN/VIS-MIN

13 15 26 28 33 42

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House members gang up on Jamby

'She should have checked facts before accusing Speaker's brother of impropriety'

By Norman Bordadora and DJC Cabacungan Jr.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ASSAILED Sen. Jamby Madrigal's allegation of a financial irregularity on the part of the brother of Speaker Prospero Nograles, even as Madrigal alleged the consultancy firm she had linked to banker Jose Nograles was a "shell company" that was used to launder hefty commissions from a P5-billion loan deal.

An Ilocos party-list Rep. Florencio Noel said Madrigal had disrespected the Office of the Speaker and her colleagues, which he called "very resilient and irrepressible," and is an affront to the entire House.

"Madrigal's senior is not fit for her cause as a senator of the Republic. Public hearings are not leather shops and set-and-now thinking means where people can just exchange gossip based on hearsay and speculation," Noel said.

Noel said Madrigal should have checked her facts before alleging that Jose Nograles had pocketed some P5M million in "legal fees" for facilitating a P5-billion loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine PCIBank to the Quezon and Bataan Electric Cooperatives (Quezelco I).

Administrator Rep. Rodolfo Antonino challenged Madrigal to produce on Monday documentary evidence of Jose Nograles' purported receipt of P5.14 million from Quezelco I and her alleged connection to DBL Consultants, the firm that packaged the loan facility.

"She should produce and make public these documents that she claims she has. She should do it in no later than Monday to preserve any definition of discourtesy," said Antonino, chair of the House committee on public order.

"Otherwise, I have every reason to believe that Senator Jamby is having perhaps bouts of hallucinations and needs to see her psychiatrist at Makati Medical Center sooner rather than the door. Anyone of her senior should be more circumspect before recanting accusations," he said.

Another minority party-list congressman, Saub Mindanao Rep. Hussin Amin, said Madrigal was motivated to accuse Jose Nograles, the president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., of having pocketed money's fees from the transaction because he wasn't even a lawyer.

"Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was correct when he described Senator Madrigal as a purveyor of falsehood. Now she's at it again, making accusations without a speck of evidence to prove her claim," said Antonino.

Another mardi gras

Her attack on the family of Speaker Nograles is another Jamby mardi gras, a mere spectacle to get media attention," he said.

Deputy Majority Leader Crispin Remulla said Madrigal violated basic chamber courtesy when she mentioned Speaker Nograles' name as she was making unverified allegations of wrongdoing.

"I believe that it was very reckless of her to mention the name of Speaker Nograles in a public hearing for the Senate without even bothering to spend some time to research on what she was talking about," Remulla said.

Remulla, a lawyer, said Madrigal could have easily checked the Internet as that can if there was an "Atty. Jose Nograles" on the roll of attorneys that is readily accessible on the website of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Jose Nograles is an investment banker. He is now president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., which he joined early this year. He is senior vice president in charge of Landbank's treasury and investment banking group at the time of the transaction.

Remulla said Madrigal should have realized it was impossible for Nograles to ask for anyone's fees or a senator for because he was not a member of the bar.

"She stepped over the line of the time-honored protocol on inter-parliamentary courtesy. Speaker Nograles represents the House of Representatives and it is very irresponsible for a senator to be dragging his name in a Senate investigation without checking her facts first," said Remulla.

"You cannot just destroy somebody's name based on speculations and innuendos. You cannot just destroy somebody under the cover of parliamentary immunity," he added.

Specifically a shell company

In her latest allegation, Madrigal said the financial consultancy of DBL Consultants "clearly showed that it was put up specifically as a shell company to claim those the P5.14-million in arranger's fees, lawyer's fees and financial services for the same loan."

Madrigal has alleged that the fees were represented by Jose Nograles, who was a Landbank executive when the Quezelco I loan was approved in March 2006.

The documents, which Madrigal said she obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission, showed DBL received a windfall in 2004, the biggest profit it made since its incorporation in 2002.

The company had gross revenues of P122 million which it spent as follows: Donations and contributions (P507 million), commission fees (P30 million), Christmas giveaways (P15 million), meetings and conventions (P1.29 million), communication/ fax (P1.186 million), research and development (911 million), representation and entertainment expenses (P5.47 million), and stationery and office supplies (P5.09 million).

Madrigal also questioned DBL's payment to Dollar Bills Inc. of P1.5 million for the use of its equipment, the nature of which she said remains unclear.

"We have reason to believe that these disbursements of DBL are intended to distribute the swine loan commissions and fees through these questionable expenses. That all of these were made in the election year of 2004 showed that it was intended for a questionable purpose," said Madrigal.

She said Jose Nograles, who she alleged experienced DBL as the signing secretary for the swine loan, should appear before the Senate Blue Ribbon committee to justify the collection of commissions between the government Bancard Investment Fund-Bank and Quezelco I and to shed light on the circumstances with DBL.

The blue ribbon committee is investigating whether the fiasco involving the swine loan were diverted to President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign in 2004.

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Rains, albeit less, to continue, says Pagasa

By TJ Burgonio

THE SKIES WILL STILL BE CLOUDY but there will be less rainfall in Luzon today after the low pressure area that spawned monsoon rains the past several days will begin to dissipate, weather officials said yesterday.

"We still have improving weather by Sunday afternoon," said weather forecaster Rene Paciencia of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The low pressure area—which is associated with cloudiness and precipitation—was forecast to dissipate as it crossed Central Luzon between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, Paciencia said.

The weather bureau said it expects the rains to taper off in Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley and northern Luzon.

The weather system was monsoon bursting over the Philippine Sea off the coast of Batanes and Quezon provinces at 11 a.m. Saturday, bringing light to moderate rains over those areas and parts of Central Luzon.

"It's expected to move from mid Luzon and will dissipate between now and tomorrow morning," said Paciencia yesterday since the typhoon.

Pagasa, in the meantime, has expected a monsoon trough across Luzon, an elongated region of low atmospheric pressure which usually induces strong winds, southern and northeast winds.

"After the low pressure area dissipates, there will be a trough and there will be a second phase of winds, which will bring rain," Paciencia said.

Luzon, particularly its western section, will be cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms, he said.

The weather bureau said it expects three to four storms to hit the country this month, three months after the most number of cyclones rained into the Philippine area of responsibility.

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Isang Kurangalan ang Maglingkod sa Bayan

Palace resigned to ARMM polls

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG APPEARS TO BE resigned to the fact that elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will push through as scheduled on Aug. 11.

The prospect of the polls being postponed as demanded by rebels refuses was becoming rife, Palace officials yesterday admitted.

The officials said the Commission on Elections should proceed with its preparations for the polls while maintaining was waiting for Congress to enact the law.

"It's in Congress' hands. If the bill is passed on time, the elections will be postponed, otherwise, as Comelec officials have said, the elections will push through," said Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Anthony Golez.

Rep. Prospero Amatong Jesus Dureza said it was too early to throw in the towel.

"We will wait. Aug. 11 is still a long way from now [for us] to be resigned," he said.

Dureza, however, admitted difficulties in light of the fact that the lawmakers had yet to act on the measure's rudimentary process and that the government would have to follow the 15-day publication requirement for a new law to take effect, which cannot be waived.

The government believes that pushing ahead with the ARMM polls would delay the peace accord with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front because the regional officials to be elected would have three-year terms. This would undercut the negotiations on a new autonomous government with its term set at only six years.

On Thursday, the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms approved the measure postponing the ARMM polls.

The House in plenary session will tackle the committee report on Monday.

But the counterpart bill is pending in the Senate and no senator committed to take up the proposal.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments and revision of laws, has said he sees no reason to postpone the elections.

"To the fair plans, there is no bill filed in the Senate. Even [Sen. Juan Miguel] Zubiri's a kind of wary," Gordon said.

Zubiri had promised to persuade his colleagues to pass a similar measure soon after President Macapagal-Arroyo endorsed the measure seeking the postponement of the ARMM polls last week.

Golez said preparations of the postponement were "just briefly" as waiting for action from Congress.

"If Zubiri[who] succeed in passing the bill, then it will be postponed. But if they don't, then elections will push through," he said.

Sen. Pimentel Pilot has opposed the move, saying the government was postponing the MILF which has been fighting for a separate Muslim territory since 1978.

"What is important is the MILF ... lose no armed conflict while our process goes smooth," said Golez.

Exile lists conditions for Burma democracy

DEMOCRACY IS STILL POSSIBLE in Burma (Myanmar) but only if moderates take control of the military, work with the opposition and cooperate with the international community, said a Burmese political exile at the University of the Philippines on Friday.

Bo Wai Min, a lecturer at Thailand's Chiang Mai University and a foreign affairs specialist, said he saw no political change in his homeland as long as junta chief Senior Gen. Than Shwe remained in power.

He was speaking ahead of demonstrations planned in Manila to mark the 20th anniversary of a failed student-led uprising in Burma, which led to his exile.

"The military alone will not make a change. The main movement alone will not make a change. International pressure will not make a change. We need all three coming together," Wai Min told journalists in remarks where he was shaken by the Center for International Studies in UP's operation on the situation in his country.

Wai Min was a medical student who took part in the student movement in Burma until the 1988 uprising that was brutally suppressed by the military government.

He said some of his close friends were killed and he was forced to flee into exile in Thailand. AP

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Police agency gets 2 members

THE SENATE COMMISSIONERS representing the civilian sector in the National Police Commission (Napolcom) were sworn in on Tuesday last after the panel's seven vacancies for more than a year.

Senator Secretary Rodolfo Peter said he was looking forward to the contributions of Napolcom's two new members, vice chair and executive officer Eduardo Escueta and commissioner Luis Mario Gatmaitan.

"Finding the search for the two new members, I observed that Napolcom was lacking in lawyers and so was established," Peter said during the swearing-in ceremony.

Escueta and Gatmaitan, who are both lawyers, were chosen by President Macapagal-Arroyo from a list of more than 30 names, said Peter.

"I bet was someone that I don't know which about police work but promise to contribute to the Napolcom in terms of my legal skills," Escueta said.

Escueta is a graduate of the UP College of Law and was founding partner of the Escueta Nasay and Partners, the Escueta Tan Aure and Madrid law office, and the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz law office.

He once served as chief of staff of Sen. Edgardo Angara and as Senate legal counsel.

Gatmaitan is former executive director of the Regional Services and Field Operations Office of the Department of Agrarian Reform. He was also regional director of the Land Transportation Office in Legaspi City, as well as a legal consultant to the Bureau of Treasury, Commission on Audit, Commission on Elections, Department of Justice and Department of Interior and Local Government. AP

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50

Teaching Baseco kids to dream big

From page A1

learning experience to a select group of Grade 5 and Grade 6 students in the poor village.

Salaenga and Espinoli take turns teaching morning and afternoon sessions in English, Math and Science at the Unibersidad Bukidnon Para Sa Kaunlaran (UBK) learning center, a one-room facility established by Kabalikat, a Baseco people's organization, and former labor associates, a non-government organization, with a P300,000 donation in 2003.

There's world out there

"Sometimes when we ask kids what they want to be, they say 'I want to be a resident, a janitor, a vendor in Divisoria.' They do not dream of bigger things. Nobody said 'I want to be a doctor.' But we tell them this is not all of the world. There's a bigger world outside Baseco," said the 25-year-old Espinoli.

UBK's claim: weekly sessions (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) with 25 students per grade level are helping to bridge the learning gaps for low-performing students of Baseco's public elementary schools.

"In school, they average 75 to 90 students per class, so only those in the front rows get to understand their lessons. If you're in the back, you will be left behind. That's what we see," Salaenga, 28, who finished English Studies at UP Diliman.

Duties over; back to mission

Tutoring pupils in the center has become a mission for Salaenga and Espinoli who have shunned better opportunities normally available to young people of their age and access privileges.

Espinoli, who majored in Social Sciences in UP Manila, started work at BSE three days after she graduated in April 2003.

Family obligations made Espinoli, the child in a family of four children, take a three-year respite from BSE to take a teaching job in Thailand. She taught at an exclusive, all-girls school in southern Thailand and later became assistant director of the Thaksin University's institute for Foreign Languages.

"I had to go there to support my younger siblings [learning] studies. It's a cultural thing to return it, that's why I'm back. My obligation is over," she said.

Salaenga, who was looking for a part-time job to support her graduate studies, joined BSE the year that Espinoli left. She said it was the kind of challenge she had long been looking for to escape a "boring" job at the family printing business in Cubao.

"For us, English, Maths, graduate kasi ako dito, there are many opportunities. It's easy for me to go [to] I do not feel like it. I feel like there's no need for me to leave. And what's good now is we get to explore our interests," said Salaenga.

They receive compensation that they regard as better than what other schools would pay, but they consider the experience of becoming more than a ramp to their resumes a far greater reward.

Parent performers

"We are able to provide individual assistance and the child sees that the teacher is concerned. Once you get their trust, they will already share with you what's happening in their homes, they will open up. They treat you as a friend," said Espinoli.

DREAM UNLIMITED Baseco grade schoolers in Tondo delight in their teachers, both UP graduates, Jay Espinoli (center) and Lou Salaenga (right, partly hidden), who dream that the low-paying jobs do not limit their dreams in being previous, vendors and drivers, the usual job description of the residents in their neighborhood. EDWIN

The center admits children the regular school calendar, annually admits 25 of the poorest performers—of those with a grade average of 79 percent and below—in the last two grade levels whom they prepare to enter high school.

A token fee of P1 is charged for each session. The idea is for the students and the parents to have a "sense of ownership" of the program, said Espinoli.

The job of selecting those that need help falls to the Baseco parents who identify barely passing elementary school pupils in the community and enroll them at BSE. Salaenga and Espinoli said they sometimes have to knock on doors to encourage participation.

The center holds three-hour sessions for each grade level, alternating the time among English, particularly reading and grammar, basic Math and Science. Fridays are reserved for art and music lessons which many of the kids enjoy the best.

Good manners

And throughout the sessions, the pupils are taught as elusive good manners.

Once, a student who came in 20 minutes late for a Friday afternoon session had to apologize to the group, to which a classmate replied in English: "Next time, come early."

Newcomers catch flimsy kids have opened the system's eyes to "realities" that are peculiar to the place.

In the port village, a former shanty town that had been demanded many times before by fires and demolitions, daily problems often include students old enough for high school.

Finding the answer to 5 minus 4 is a struggle for fifth graders, and graduating students struggle to read "bad" or "fun."

Empty stomachs

"We wonder whether there was a student who could read well," said Salaenga, adding that students at times had to go back to primary level because.

Many also go to school with empty stomachs.

"You'll see that immediately in the child. You'd think he's just not that smart but you realize that hunger is the reason why he performs poorly in school. It's either they went to school without eating, or they were bruised by their parents," said Salaenga.

"In fairness comprehension, the students would use the papers' experience to simplify the lessons.

"In addition or subtraction, we ask them how much will be left if you take 15 from 35. And most of them instinctively understand because at times their parents make them count [money] in Divisoria," Salaenga said.

But what would prove to be useful to class was also a factor for pupils entering the sessions. The teachers note poor attendance in the months leading up to Christmas, traditionally the peak selling season for Divisoria.

"Sometimes, parents would rather that their kids sell plastic bags in Divisoria, or P5 for P20 pieces, than go to the center. Or they are made to sell vegetables, or take care of their siblings," said Espinoli.

Bound for high school

To persuade the students to remain, the teams have to visit their homes and talk to the parents.

Despite the challenges, the young teachers are buoyed by the BSE's successes.

Sammos Inga, who was in the first batch of students at the center, graduated First Honorable Mention in 2006, after lagging behind in her class for a long time with 70 percent grades.

Roughly 18 percent of BSE "graduates" have also presented as high school, helping reverse the high dropout rate among Baseco residents.

The center's peculiar activities at the BSE have helped to pull up Ibabel Catolutan's average by a point—from 79 percent to 80 percent—in the last school year.

"Since we got to class we sing and dance and go on field trips. We went to the Planetarium where I saw stars and Pluto and Neptune where we got to play in the open ground," said Catolutan.

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	ANNE LORAINE LORENZO	- UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP RIZAL - LAS PINAS	
TOP 7	ROGER CARLO PINEDA	- DR. YAMBA	(84.80%)
TOP 8	ROSAURO BRIONES	- ENVERGA	(84.80%)
TOP 9	ARTHUR MICHAEL SUNICO	- FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY	(84.40%)
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Cecile Licad breaks 'Rach 3' sex barrier

From page A1

the movie 'Shine,' which showed a during a piano recital in the finals of marathon. And it have was a great of truth to that fiction. Rachmaninoff, a big hand, came man with huge hands, 'so on the concerto as a showpiece for himself. And through the decades, it has remained the domain of big, handsome men with huge hands. So when shrimp cutsie someone like Licad, you come to shore."

Athletic, rhythmic

The critic enjoyed what Licad didn't disappoint anyone look, implied on other level.

"Her approach was rhythmic and percussive enticing. Accents stood out. You could see her breathing. Lively, interesting string. She played as if she had something to prove. And she did have something to prove: this virtuosity for the end of that first movement, no one doubted it," wrote Goldman.

Stokes, before the Lenovo engagement, Licad played Rach 3 as one of the highlights of the Xiamen International Music Festival in North Carolina, also graced by Japanese violinist Midori and American pianist Andre Watts.

Music critic William Thomas Whitlock reported on a "powerful performance" in the all-Russian program that included works of Stravinsky and Shostakovich for the orchestra.

Not for men only

Music Stokes: "Music directors Gerard Schwarz chose an unsurprising and triumphant all-Russian program for the second concert of the Eastern Music Festival (EMF). Guest pianist Cecile Licad proved that Rachmaninoff's last romantic concerto are not necessarily 'for men only' but many decides age, she's got muscular juice if the Third Piano Concerto in D minor, Op. 30 by Sergei Rachmaninoff seemed to be the preserve of men. Only the late Gina Bachauer (Greek classical pianist) louder with the sound by regularly playing the composer's assertive, tactile nature's ball and reverent adagio.

Breathtaking

"Philippine-born pianist Cecile Licad has taken up this repertory since the beginning of her recording career on CBS. There was no lack of power or finesse in her fleet RMF performances. Her rhapsodic range was breathtaking—from thundering chords to the most delicate passages. The honors passages were precisely articulated, they could a master with impressive orchestra transitions solos had the quality of fine chamber music. Soloist had a finely balanced accompaniment that Licad's many jam talent like had given it," wrote Stokes.

The finesse from Licad (along with Van Cliburn and Gary Graffman) as one of the great tenet pianists of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concertos No. 3.

Toast of German critics

Late June in Germany, Licad's "Rach 3" was the toast of German music critics. A young Russian pianist went mouth-the-notes of playing the same piece with the same orchestra in the same month and got the knock of critics and audiences—she suffered in comparison with Licad.

"I am not comparing such anyone," said Licad when told this she had sent hands down in what seemed like a grand Olympics of Rach 3s by different actors in different venues.

"Every music or in love," announced a German newspaper which praised the pianist of a booming Licad took in the German orchestra.

'Rach by magic'

When the Filipina pianist returned to Germany last month, she played Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and the critics got a taste of the Russian maestro of the Filipina pianist.

German critic Klaus Schmelzing described Licad's performance as simply spectacular. Playing under conductor Eckart Rohde, the critic noted the pianist cast and grand passion, as if by magic.

Music Wagenberg: "The tempo were always right, including the relaxing moments when hardly were sounding seemed. The ladies and gentlemen in the orchestra achieved all this with great upbeat and discipline, which was particularly impressive for Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto. Dame Cecile Licad had less nothing in technique (and strength) since her last performance in Leverkusen, and has only gained in passion.

Music was an inspiring fact. Despite this, the audience kept in tune with her every move music beats and apparently oblivious. It could ring in an overwhelming climax. The acclaimed encore was Gershwin/Rachmaninoff and Gotschalk confirmed that her glittering virtuosity a few more."

Fanatic fans

A German couple from Frankfurt who have since become fanatic fans of Licad wrote us her: "We just wanted to tell you once more how grateful we are that we had the opportunity to meet you. We fell in love with your music when we heard you in Bonn [we mention]. Every time we hear you play is a revelation and how strong impressions. There are many good pianists on the world, and some revel you more whose recordings are also here. But we cannot remember having encountered in anyone's way of playing so immediately and spontaneously as in you (and, it's a quite local expression for us, for beyond simple admiration for your technical brilliance, musicality and aesthetic insight). But on top of all that, you're doing so play members as in the very deep layers of our hearts and souls."

RP concert next year

Licad has good news for her fans in the Philippines. She will present new year for a concert with celebrated cellist Illias Gorbunch.

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UN, EU: 5 kinds of pesticide on ship

BRUSSELS—UNITED NATIONS (UN) and European Union (EU) experts have confirmed that five types of pesticide were on board the MV Princess of the Stars when it capsized in the Philippines in June and urged their troops be taken to prevent an environmental disaster.

In a statement Friday, the European Commission said a comprehensive plan was needed to dispose of the chemicals in the wreck before salvage operations could begin.

The experts' report said the ship was carrying a "substantial" amount of toxic pesticides as well as 800,000 liters of fuel for an engine when it capsized on June 21 in the height of Typhoon "Frank".

It said also aside from one container on this that carried the pesticide endosulfan, another contained the pesticides carbofuran, propineb, mancozeb, thiophos and an herbicide.

The experts recommended to prevent containering of the waste, salvage and an around the wreck to ensure the risk of pollution and to control populations.

So far, no leak of chemicals or oil from the ship had been detected, said EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik in the statement.

"I hope the suggestions made by our experts concerning sampling procedures, free-monitoring and precautionary measures will help ensure that this ill-fated tragedy does not turn into an even more substantial disaster," he said.

UK expert Vladimir Soldatov said the accident underscored the need for preparedness and contingency planning for such incidents.

The bodies of over 700 passengers are believed still trapped in the hull, which capsized off Sibuyan Island in Romblon in one of the worst maritime accidents in the Philippines. Only over 30 survivors were found while over 100 bodies were recovered.

Philippine authorities have said they plan to refloat the ship, but their salvage operations would not start until Aug. 4.

Six arrest complex sailors have drawn no commercial or—by, but a lobbying Quicksilver boss (see office). Reserve

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Cops rescue 5-yr-old Japanese girl abducted from restaurant

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICE RESCUED ON FRIDAY A 5-YEAR-old Japanese girl who was taken from a Cubao food restaurant in Makati City and held captive for five days.

Makati police raided and a rented house in Pinto Village in Taguig City and arrested Hiyori Morimoto, 24.

Morimoto will be charged with kidnapping, a nonbailable offense.

On interrogation, Morimoto of Davao City said he used to be a male entertainer in Japan where he met the victim's mother, a Filipina overseas worker who married a Japanese man.

Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Makati police chief, identified the victim as Ai Ishikawa of Okagawa, Japan.

He said the girl and her mother, Edna Ishikawa, were in the Philippines on a vacation.

"The suspect and the mother knew each other when they worked in Japan, so this perhaps made it easy for the suspect to seize the child," said Supt. Manuel Santos Jr., chief of the Makati police criminal investigation section.

The suspect allegedly took the girl on May 27 from a waitress branch on Edsa in Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati.

"Edna had left her child with a waiter. Minutes later she saw that the man had taken the brother of her mother. As Edna ran after the man, he put them in his car with the child," Jimenez told the reporter in a phone interview.

A day later, Morimoto reportedly contacted the mother to ask for P10,000 in exchange for a fresh account for her daughter's release.

Police officers learned from the Japanese they were searched for the girl and Morimoto at the latter's former residences in Calauit, Pinag-Ibaan and Pinagbuhatan.

"We were able to get the cooperation of the owner of the fourth account, who knew the suspect, and the suspect's relatives. We were able to track him in a rented house in Taguig City," Santos said.

The victim was unharmed during her captivity, he added.

"We are investigating other links between the mother and Morimoto in today for child kidnapping," Santos said.

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Responsorial: Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Gospel: Mt 14:13-21

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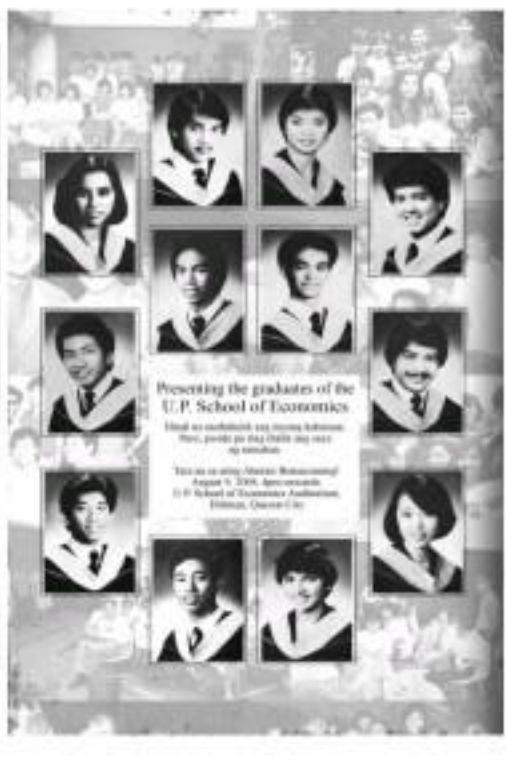

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INQUIRER
OPINION

Slash and burn

IF THERE'S ONE THING TRAINED LAWYERS CAN BE relied upon to do, it's to avoid lying outright in an affidavit. And to the public must consider the possibility that both Justice Jose Sabio Jr. of the Court of Appeals and Perseus de Borja may be telling the truth—though unintentionally, and therefore, partially. This is a dilemma the Supreme Court will have to wrestle with, as it addresses on Tuesday, the question of whether Court of Appeals justices acted improperly or not, in handling the blunders vs GSIS case.

EDITORIAL

Behind Justice Sabio are ranged not just the inherent authority and even prestige of his office, but the credibility and good judgment of the institution with whom he has been affiliated, including the Ateneo de Manila's law school, whose leading lights have spoken up to endorse Sabio. It was Sabio, with the encouragement of Justice Jaburia Vidal (his colleague in the 9th Special Division) who informed the presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, Justice Conrado M. Vasquez Jr., that a bribery attempt had been made.

According to Sabio, De Borja, an acquaintance, offered him P10 million, for which the justice in turn would recuse himself from the blunder-case originally brought before the appellate court's Special 9th Division, which Sabio chaired. Apparently De Borja was a rather crude name-dropper, and Sabio claimed that after he declined the offer of a bribe, the Morales case was suddenly and unceremoniously transferred to the 8th Division of the Court of Appeals, which inexplicably and unanimously upheld Morales's argument that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had no jurisdiction over the GSIS-Morales dispute.

In retaliation, De Borja then issued a counter-affidavit, in which he claimed that Sabio said that changing his mind would cost P50 million, since he'd been offered money and a Supreme Court seat by the administration.

Against Justice Sabio are the troubling questions of his "casual friendship" with De Borja—a friendship that seems to have been based on a prior business relationship dating back to the days when Sabio was a Regional Trial Court judge in Cagayan de Oro City. This was a lucrative friendship, according to De Borja.

It was certainly a friendship that enabled De Borja to meet with Sabio last July 3—a meeting that ought never to have taken place at all. The Judicial Code of Ethics is quite clear: "Judges shall maintain not only in their conduct above reproach, but that it is perceived to be so in the view of a reasonable observer."

There was no reason for Sabio to be entertaining people in the lobby of the Ateneo de Manila's college of law—no justification for him to even entertain questions on cases, past, pending, or future, and no way he could have been viewed to have been acting in any manner except with impropriety, and to the prejudice not only of his reputation but also of the Court of Appeals.

The legal profession is rife with stories of cases up for sale to the highest bidder, and of decisions being determined less by the law and more by interventions made by powerful parties on susceptible judges. Both the private and public sectors are widely perceived to be engaged in influence-peddling on a particularly lucrative scale when it comes to the higher courts. The only thing unusual about the allegations being made now is that they are being made in public, by means of affidavits, and not merely being whispered about in legal circles.

And not it is Sabio's decision to go public with the bribe allegedly offered to him by De Borja that, for now, gives weight to the justice's claim. His having gone public, while still continuing to the Court of Appeals, is the proper action of a man who has nothing to hide, and who has fulfilled his duty by informing his superiors of an attempt at bribery, and of the possibility that his colleagues may have succumbed to similar blandishments.

For its part, Morales, if shown to be indeed behind De Borja, cannot justify the alleged bribe offer to the cause of self-preservation, and self-defense, just because the GSIS, it's current and dedicated accounts, has proven adept at using institutions like the SEC to fend her its cases ends. The only thing going for Morales is that the link between De Borja and his alleged client (Morales) is slightly more complex than the damaging link between De Borja and Sabio himself.

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'In the fell clutch of circumstance'

SEPARATE OPINION

Raymond A. Criste

THE AVALANCHE OF TRIVIALITIES HERE-inbound all over the media by the amateur-cum-professional Mondragon-Aquino-ic pantheon for its legal counsel many various methods for possible non-existing definitions to unavailable measures, unbiased self-serving, and deviant hypocrisy.

Over these many undesirable events, the people have been pestered to become non-sensitive to full-page advertisements in the newspapers and segments printed each on all commercials on TV and were the entire institution of the country of her friend in the management of the well-being of the Filipino people she lends to President of the Philippines.

She is personally presenting that impossible claim by appearing in many public occasions drastically reported in the papers and over the radio, and upon fully considered on it by SOLO to emphasize her pretended to-convince to the people and with her protected confused republic as-myth-to-throw that she is worst of them.

Her issue, of course, the reason for the criminal spate of energy, which is like the last gasps of a dying person resorting to raising enough breath to finally have it completely. GMA is a political mortician, and not only because her term is making us DEAD of us, hopefully, rather she may deny it totally, but she knows that it is her future that her political victory is over.

Even now, she has created the apparent distraction of having the Ateneo Assembly voting among all the presidents we have had to date. In fairness, though this will end possibly into Presidential Election "PRESIDENTIAL OPTIONS" totally remedy aside because her endorsement is among 1, does not even consider +1. So no matter, as it has finalizes (and does the points for her favor (an blessed) while the rest of the names simply disregard it.

And to think that when the rest were in the

the record keep, the nation be united a right or relief and hoped she would entrust the government of the past corruption and lend her services to a more regime of honesty and competence. After all, she had impressive academic credentials and had not been involved in the categories of the expelled administration.

But many were not disenchanted. Yes. The Filipinos, but those for the most part dreaded position she had elected, resolutely accepted them her Cabinet, and when doubters who began to accuse them, readily approved of the accidental presidents' choice of those were visibly confirmed when the promised not to run in the 2004 presidential election, which only deserved Cabinet members did not vote for her favorite.

The "Bello, Gate" topic now surfaced to put into serious questions her supposed role to the presidency. Her decision of the past weeks' leaders incomplete inspired we have were not convincing, for she hopefully made appointments of the scrambled stopped on her command "to the nation resigns or," in the part it. The person leaves to hold, however, and may still be remembered to assume the task.

Besides, these signs, there are many other reasons reason than how blackened Pensionsgate's name and polluted her senate for good redemption. The shameful irregularities under her watch, some were involving her family, Mike Arroyo's name, and the Jose Pidal Economic Zone, and her husband's name, and the scrambled stopped on her command "to the nation resigns or," in the part it. The person leaves to hold, however, and may still be remembered to assume the task.

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The way of love

MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A HINDU GURU who, driving on the freeway, executed a brake out from his wife, mutter, "Honey, he needn't just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on the freeway." "Yeah," he said, "It's not just one car. There are hundreds of them!"

* * *

Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel (Dt. 11, 13-21) that love's way is often, in the eyes of the world, the "wrong" way. Jesus was killed after a long day, and the disciples wanted to get through the crowd, but Jesus chose to get against their advice. He chose to stay and feed the crowd. That's the way of love.

* * *

The way of the world is to hold back, but the way of love is to go to "non-safe." Safety will often find ourselves in this dilemma. The easy way is to say "Enough." But how easy is to say "Enough." When Jesus chose food over self-healing it was not always the dramatic but ordinary examples in our life?

* * *

Today think of people who had a significant impact on you. You will most likely remember people who were positive and wise. But when you remember people who were dedicated and generous, you will most likely remember them with gratitude, respect, and joy, even with a smile. Great people are always dedicated. Loving people are appreciated. Great people leave behind footprints. Loving people leave behind "heartprints."

* * *

There are people who die their deep for others' sake. There are people who go beyond the call of duty. We love to them, as by those who do not LOSE their days! We desire our friends in disappointed and give the disaster down in the chaos. As for those who do not only neglect their duty but even abuse, and real incompetent through the way, we should them to avoid their ways. If that is not enough, we

and we can't seem against them. And it will show for not enough, then we may see them anymore, and say, "Get out. You are blocking my way!"

* * *

Who talks about duty, who talks about love these days in our nation; after the dictatorial subjection to problem, corruption, and communication? Someone rightly said that when money talks, a lot of cars become dead, a lot of eyes become blind, and a lot of mouths become silent. The sounds of treasuries are to be removed, for government, and to be losing can hardly be heard because when money talks, it also walks. But also, when love talks, silence just talks, and talks and talks. Some say one person who walked this talk. Most of us talk and talk.

* * *

How do it? This is about message for all of us today. Take the "endless invested," the way of love that just the every side, that goes out of its way, and it transcends a counterflow. What, even. We know when duty calls, when love calls, and when God calls. The problem is we do not listen hard enough. And we pretend not to hear, or all together refuse to respond to the call.

* * *

"They say little who love much." Why are many people who don't say much, but are just loving much. Many of them go through life unknown and unrecorded by the media, but not on God's eyes. They may be insignificant, but they are great in God's eyes. Let us practice that for them "little ones," for others. Let this be not to us make

who take the way of love every day.

* * *

"Love, love, me, me." That's how someone described the three phases of life. It is hoped that all our citizens and children will help us to do so, that we could remove some of them to the world. That's the way of love. But many people never learn, all they do is harp on serving. They are busy on breaking and never just to return. The way of love teaches us to share generously, even require, and return to the better in the end.

* * *

There is a Jewish short entitled the "Tzedek," also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, wherein the Jewish people were today to remember the long weeks of forty years in the wilderness. They wandering there in the desert. One requirement is that the tents must be visible at night through the roof, with little protection from inclement weather. So to remind them of their vulnerability, they would go out of their comfortable houses and live in the open. This is also a good reminder for all of us that ours is a temporary, earthly dwelling place. We are all wanderers in this world. We carry nothing with us when we leave this world. Let us depend on God, our true and faithful treasure, and achievements. And let us not be greedy, further, let us share, especially with the needy. That is love's way. That is God's way.

* * *

How do you know if you are reading the way of love? First of all, it is not an easy way, but a difficult one. Second, it is not a "high way," but a "God's way"—the way of humility. Third, it is not a busy, well-lit way with crowds, cameras, computer code playing Lady Justice and spotlights, but a humble, efficient way that is illuminated by the Light Himself. Finally, the way of love always finds a way. And if there is no way, it will make it way.

* * *

A missionary with the Lord:
Lord, help me to take the difficult but essential way of love. Amen.

US jurisprudence affects us

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

TRIABLE THE INSTRUCTIONS EDWARD COURT [USSC] decent one about 80 to 100 judgments that either are only summaries or orders, about one of the world, including the Philippines. Composed of nine justices, the USSC begins its session in October and ends them in June. Appeals to the USSC come from the 13 federal circuits and the various courts of the US Court of Appeals. Only about one percent of these appeals is accepted by the USSC. The rest are denied or ignored. Several recent USSC decisions affect us.

Human rights violations. Of direct relevance to Filipinos is "Republic of the Philippines vs Pimentel" (June 12, 2008), which rejected a claim by Philippine human rights victims to retain the $35 million deposit of assets in Merrill Lynch, an investment bank based in New York. Arelma is "a corporation incorporated by Ferdinand Marcos" while its owners-entities. Arelma's initial deposit of $2 million in 1972 grew to $35 million by the year 2000.

Then, the Republic reversed an earlier US Court of Appeals 19th circuit decision that authorized the victims to seize the deposit to satisfy a final judgment (pursuant to Judge Manuel Real) of the US District Court in 1995 awarding them $2 billion in damages against Marcos. That 1995 ruling held that, being restricted to "sovereign immunity," the Philippines could not be sued without its consent.

It added that the Philippines claim over the Marcos deposits was "less than frivolous" because its petition to declare the deposit "ill-gotten" and to forfeit it were now still pending in the Sandiganbayan. The USSC ruled that "if the dignity of a foreign state is not enhanced if either nation is party to the other's courts, the judiciary of both businesses, weakening public corruption is a significant international policy ... sanctioned or invoked something for international cooperation in investigating forfeited assets."

That quote is significant because Justice Antonio Scalia, the author of the USSC decision, knows of our judiciary's independence and foreign policy. As our instructor, he [and USSC Justice Stephen Breyer] participated via videoconferencing during Arthur Chan [Dr. 2008]. In a 5-4 decision, the USSC held that the right to have Gwenevere is not included right guaranteed by the 6th Constitution. This decision settled one of the most controversial topics during the last [17 years of lower] tax constitutional history.

The United Supreme Court is the US Constitution. It "is the supreme [UNITED] being recognized as in the sense by of a new State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Who can own a gun under this old phraseology and pronouncement, only members of the militia or anyone?

Speaking for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, "Undoubtedly some think that the Second Amendment is outmoded in a society where our standing army is the pride of our nation, where well-armed police forces provide personal security, and where gun-violence is a major problem. This is perhaps debatable but not at all unreasonable. It is not the role of this Court to pronounce the Second Amendment extinct."

This decision may be last cause for the Gordian Society in America but not to the Philippines. Our Supreme Court, in "Chavez vs Secretary" (June 9, 2008), ruled that the right to bear arms does not find constitutional basis. Declared one high court through Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, "The transmission of the Internet [an enhancement of the Division] Amendment] clearly that it pertains to the citizens' collective right to take arms in defense of the State, not to the citizens' individual right to own and possess arms."

The issue then becomes: Should decisions outside of our high court, do you gun advocates have a reason to oppose? Will our Supreme Court at some itself and age the USSC? I do not think so. After all, our Constitution does not involve any provision similar to the Second Amendment.

(To be continued)

Comments are welcome at cjpanganiban@yahoo.com.

Choices and nudes

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TO CONFORM WITH THE "BLUE AND PALE" in the President's insistence on family planning in her State of the Nation Address, here's the first portion of the statement: "Our campaign spreads awareness of responsible parenthood regardless of birth options. Long years of pushing community-wide made it synonymous to family planning. Therefore informed choice should mean being more conscious of the various methods and choosing one that is family planning methods—either through the society's methods such as ovulation method or the sympto-thermal method, or the clinical ones like condom/rhythm and even withdrawal—are just some of these methods. Others include barrier method condoms, diaphragms, spermicides, but because of religious beliefs and even moralistic, this option is not as popular as other methods. Just because previous information campaigns focused on some methods over others doesn't mean that couples or families are not free to choose from the range of family planning methods that are deemed safe, effective and legal.

In another people of information is to devise them, and to prevent them from using right to information and education so they are made responsible decisions for themselves and their families ..."

NEITHER do I blame previous policymakers or campaigners for focusing on the more reliable modern contraceptive methods.

For one thing, women, who are logically the ones most concerned with preventing having children, have through the years consistently preferred modern methods—methods that place control over their fertility in their own hands. This is why the pill has consistently been the most popular method of family planning in the country, followed by female sterilization.

Despite all the official support and money thrown at the contraceptive method (Family Planning has still not gained enough confidence among users, maybe because they know it is inconvenient at best, uncomfortable at worst.

[illegible] at the University of the Philippines [illegible], would [illegible] be celebrated with an exhibit of 100 paintings of nudes that come with a collection of books on the art of the exhibit. Quickly, by wide shocking reasons with the provocative title of the show and the nudes shown somewhere.

Not maybe that isn't an accident. The "Obvious," the more explicit the painting, the [illegible] recognizing famous artist [illegible] Fabian Dalisay of a nude man, not shaved—actors/dancers before in the buff—"as an homage to both song and us using heterosexual

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
[illegible]

Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Reproductive health bill: Facts, fallacies

[Editor's Note: Upon the request of readers, we are running the salient features of the proposed Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2008. We asked its principal author in the House of Representatives to present the basic points of and misconceptions about the bill. We hope that this issue will help readers reach an informed opinion on the measure.]

By Rep. Edcel C. Lagman

THE BILL IS NATIONAL IN SCOPE, COMPREHENSIVE, rights-based and provides adequate funding to the population program. It is a departure from the present setup in which the provision for reproductive health services is devolved to local government units, and consequently, subjected to the varying strategies of local government executives and suffers from a dearth of funding.

The reproductive health (RH) bill promotes informed choice and access to both natural and modern family planning methods, which are medically safe and legally permitted like, it ensures an enabling environment where women and couples have the freedom of informed choice on the mode of family planning they want to adopt based on their needs, personal convictions and religious beliefs.

The bill does not have any limit for or uptake of the natural or modern family planning. Both modes are contraceptive methods. Their common purpose is to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

The bill will promote reasonable human development. The UN stated in 2000 that "family planning and reproductive health are essential in reducing poverty." The United also asserts that "family planning could bring more benefits to more people at less cost than any other single technology now available to the human race."

1 Coverage of RH. (1) Information and access to natural and modern family planning, (2) Maternal, infant and child health and nutrition (3) Prevention of breast feeding (4) Prevention of abortion and management of post abortion complications (5) Adolescent and youth health (6) Prevention and management of reproductive tract infections (RTIs), HIV/AIDS and STDs (7) Elimination of violence against women (8) Counseling on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health (9) Treatment of infertility and sexual dysfunction (10) Male involvement and participation in RH; (11) Prevention and treatment of infertility and (12) RH education.

2 Strengthening of Population. The revised Population Commission shall be reoriented to promote both natural and modern family planning methods. It shall cease as the central planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring body for the comprehensive and integrated policy on reproductive health and population development.

3 Capability building of service providers. The workers shall undergo additional and updated training on the delivery of reproductive healthcare services and shall receive not less than 10 percent increment in honoraria upon successful completion of training.

4 Midwives for skilled birth attendance. Every city and municipality shall endeavor to employ an adequate number of midwives and other skilled attendants.

5 Emergency obstetrics care. Each province, city and city shall endeavor to ensure the establishment and operation of hospitals with adequate and qualified personnel that provide emergency obstetrical care.

6 Hospital-based family planning. Family planning methods requiring hospital services like ligation, vasectomy and IUI insertion shall be available in all national and local government hospitals.

7 Contraceptives as essential medicines. Reproductive health products shall be considered essential medicines and supplies and shall form part of the Maternal Drug Procurement considering their family planning, reduced the incidence of maternal and infant mortality.

8 Reproductive health education. All educators in an age-appropriate manner shall be taught by adequately trained teachers from Grade 5 to 4th year high school. As proposed in the bill, core subjects include responsible parenthood, natural and modern family planning, principles and functions of abstinence, sexuality, sexual health and sexual rights, abstinence before marriage, and responsible sexuality.

9 Certification of compliance. No certificate of occupancy shall be issued by the Local Civil Registrar unless the applicants present a Certificate of Compliance issued for free by the Social Family Planning Office. The document should certify that they had duly received adequate information and information on family planning, responsible parenthood, breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

10 Mind-fatality rate. The State shall encourage two children as the ideal family size. This is to reduce mindfatality rate considering that our population is not as populous as Congo having more than two children.

11 Employers' responsibilities. Employers shall respect the reproductive health rights of all their workers. Women shall not be discriminated against in the matter of hiring, stipulations of employment status or adverse developments. Employers shall provide free reproductive health services and accessibles to workers, either outsourced or unorganized.

12 Multisectoral campaign. Congress shall initiate and institute an intensified multisectoral campaign to raise the level of public awareness on the urgent need to protect and promote reproductive health and rights.

[Rep. Edcel C. Lagman of Albay is the principal author of the proposed Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2008.]

Smear offensive

THERE IS A CONTINUing campaign to discredit the reproductive health bill through misinformation. Straightforward answers to the negative propaganda will help educate and enlighten people on the matters.

• The bill is not antilife. It is propolicy life. It will ensure that children will be blessings for their parents since they become planned and wanted. It will empower couples with the information and opportunity to plan and space their children. This will not only strengthen the family as it will not also optimize care for children who will have more opportunities to be educated, healthy and productive.

• The bill does not interfere with family life. In fact, it enhances family life. The family is more than a natural institution; it is a social institution whose primary functions and development are improved with public interest. It is not antireligious by implication. For this reason, the State has enacted the Civil Code on family relations, the Family Code, and the Child and Youth Welfare Code.

• The bill does not legalize abortion. It expressly provides that "abortion remains a crime" and "prevention of abortion" is essential to fully implement the Reproductive Health Care Program. While "management of post-abortion complications" is provided, this is not to condone abortion but to preserve the human sentiment of women in life-threatening situations.

It will not legalize the legalization of abortion. It is not true that all pregnancy where contraception is promoted eventually legalize abortion. Many Catholic countries criminalize abortion even as they vigorously promote contraceptive use like Mexico, Panama, Undateable, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Paraguay and Ireland. The Muslim and Buddhist countries of Indonesia and Laos also promote contraception can yet prohibit abortion. According to studies, women and regular use of contraceptives reduces abortion rates by as much as 85 percent and negates the need to legalize abortion.

• Contraceptives do not have life-threatening side effects. Medical and scientific evidence shows that all the possible medical risks connected with contraceptives are infinitely lower than the risks of an unwed pregnancy and everyday accidents. The risk of dying within a year of taking a pill is 1 in 5,000. The risk of dying within a year of using pills is 1 in 200,000. The risk of dying from a anniversary is 1 in 1 million and the risk of dying from using an IUD is 1 in 10 million. Abortion-free injectables like hormone contraceptive of women in life-threatening situations.

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• The bill will not promote contraceptive use. The bill does not prohibit pregnancy. Users are outsiders in choosing than because contraceptives would be readily available, people would prefer to have children. The bill (couples will not stop wanting children simply because contraceptives are available. Contraceptives are used to prevent unwanted pregnancies but not to stop pregnancies altogether. Those pregnancies are planned.

• The bill does not impose a two-child policy. It does not prescribe a two-child policy nor does it limit a family to two children and set punitive action shall be imposed on persons with more than two children. This mandate is not children. This mandate is not a policy because results of the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey show that the ideal of two children approximates the desired fertility of women.

• Sexuality education will neither spawn "a generation of sex maniacs" nor breed a culture of promiscuity. Age-appropriate RH education promotes correct sexual values. It will not only instill correct notions of bonding of sexual relationship but also rights of men's rights. The UN and reasoner which have push sexuality education document in broadest results: understanding of proper sexual values to promote children's sexuality, abstinence before marriage is encouraged, multiple sex partners is avoided, and responsible and family-oriented decision is promoted.

• It does not claim that family planning is the panacea for poverty. It simply recognizes the irrefutable link between a huge population and poverty. Unbridled population growth stunts various economic development and appreciates poverty. The country has been experiencing a paradox: subsistence is well-documented and empirically established.

UN Human Development Reports show that countries with high population growth rates have low per capita income while countries with low population growth rates have higher per capita income. The latter development Bank in 2004 also found a huge population as one of the major causes of poverty in the country.

The National Statistics Office affirms that large families are prone to poverty with 57.2 percent of families with seven children existed in poverty while only 23.8 percent of families with two children are poor. Income studies also show that large families tend to a significant factor in keeping families poor across generations.

• Family planning will not lead to a demographic winter. Even if contraceptives are used, the paper "Population and Poverty: The Real Issue" declared that the decrease of a so-called demographic winter in the Philippines is "grossly exaggerated. And using it as an argument against a reproductive population policy is a gross and simple non-sense."

The National Statistical Coordination Board projected that a replacement fertility of 2.1 children per couple could be reached only by 2040. Moreover, despite a reduced population growth rate, the effects of population momentum would continue for another 60 years by which time our total population would be 240 million.

• Statement Vitae is not an indispensable document. Only Pope John XXIII created the Papal Commission on Birth Control to study questions on population and family planning. The Commission included leading partisans and theologians.

Noting the to 16, it strongly encouraged the use of this Church's change in teaching on contraception as it concluded that "the regulation of conception appears necessary for many couples who wish to achieve a responsible, open and reasonable parenthood in today's circumstances."

However, it was the minority report that Pope Paul VI eventually supported and which became the basis of Humanae Vitae.

Even Synanon where the encyclical was issued, theologians did not generally think that it was infallible. Monsignor Fernando Lacalendola, spokesperson of the Vatican in the time of 16 orders, said "absolute wording of the encyclical Humanae Vitae does not suggest the theological ex- of infallibility... it is not infallible."

Two days after the issuance of the encyclical, a statement against it was signed by 87 Catholic theologians. It asserted that "Catholics may dissent respectfully from [the] Papal doctrine" and that "Catholic spouses could responsibly decide in some circumstances to use artificial contraception."

Rep. EDCEL Lagman

Last Talk of the Town: [illegible]

Bangsamoro state eyed

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and governance would require amendments to the "existing legal framework" and a plebiscite in order to be included as part of the Bangsamoro homeland.

The proposed homeland will be governed by the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE), which will have authority to send trade missions to and enter into economic cooperation agreements with other countries provided it does not include aggression against the Philippine government, and send representatives to the deliberations of bodies of nations as well as agencies of the United Nations.

Described as a "landmark deal," the proposed MOA will pave the way for the ending of a "comprehensive compact" sure to finally end the armed, colonial-cum-Moro or racial struggle in Mindanao.

The conflict has left 120,000 dead despite the signing of a peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front in 1996.

Ultimate objective

According to the proposed MOA, the "ultimate objective of entrenching the Bangsamoro homeland as a territorial space" is to "secure the Bangsamoro's identity and posterity; preserve their property rights and resources, as well as establish a system of governance suitable and acceptable to them in a distinct dominion people."

The proposed homeland will include the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Sulu, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Isabela City), the municipalities of Baloi, Munai, Nunungan, Pantao, Tagoloan and Tangkal in Lanao del Norte; and hundreds of barangays in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato, which voted to become part of the ARMM in 2001.

The proposed MOA also provides for the inclusion of the Bangsamoro's "ancestral domain" in Mindanao, Palawan and Sulu.

Definitions

"Ancestral domain" and "ancestral land" are defined in the proposed agreement as land "held under claim of ownership, occupied or possessed, by themselves or through the ancestors of the Bangsamoro people, continuously or individually since time immemorial continuously to the present, except when prevented by war, civil disturbance, force majeure or other forms of possible usurpation or displacement by force, deceit, stealth or as consequence of a government project or any other voluntary dealings entered into by the government or private individuals, corporations or institutions."

The Bangsamoro homeland and "historic territory refer to the land mass as well as the maritime, terrestrial, fluvial and aerial domains, and the aerial domain, the atmosphere and the navigational waters embraced therein, which form the balance of the ancestral homeland of the Bangsamoro people, comprising the land mass as referred to in paragraph 1 of the Bangsamoro homeland."

The Bangsamoro people refers to those who are natives or original inhabitants of Mindanao and to indigenous islands including Palawan and the Sulu archipelago at the time of conquest or colonization of their descendants, whether mixed or of full-or-part-blood. Spouses and their descendants are classified as Bangsamoro. The freedom of choice of the indigenous people shall be respected."

Shared authority

By the proposed agreement, the government—referred to in the document as the "Central Government"—and the BJE are to exercise "shared authority and responsibility" over the Bangsamoro homeland.

The details of the structure of shared governance will be defined in the "comprehensive compact."

A supranational third party will be consulted by the government and the BJE to observe and monitor the actual implementation of the "comprehensive compact."

The other salient points of the proposed MOA are:

- Internal waters extending to 15 kilometers from the coastline belong to the BJE. Waters beyond the 15-km limit belong to both the government and the BJE.
- The government and the BJE will share all mineral resources such as gas, hydrocarbon, petroleum, etc.
- The BJE has the sole power to regulate grant forest concessions and enter mineral agreements, and to explore on shore minerals, oil, natural gas, petroleum, etc. within its territory.

Stalled peace talks

Peace negotiators between the government and the MILF have been stalled on the composition issue of ancestral domain since December 2007.

Only on July 28, talks on this aspect is going the peace negotiators' task as much harder there in Kuala Lumpur, such the MILF panel accusing the other side of trying to "unduly" interfere in the "breakthrough" agreement brought to bed by.

The MILF and the warring had been scheduled to finalize the text of the draft agreement on ancestral domain, but then the government panel had by armed group.

At Rodolfo Garcia warned on two settled to unnecessary.

Stumbling blocks hurdled

But both Garcia and Peace Secretary Jesus Dureza himself a peace negotiators with the MILF panel, saying that in recent, about 12 years, negotiated agreement than the stumbling blocks would be hurdled and the peace process would go forward.

Indeed, on July 27, the government and MILF panels led by Garcia and Mohagher Iqbal, respectively, initialed the final draft of the agreement on the ancestral domain, paving the way for the signing of the accord.

"This will lead to the signing of the MOA on ancestral domain on Aug. 5," Bunye said.

Low-tech transport for automated polls

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Officials of Smartmatic-Total Technologies Inc. and Itamar International Technology Inc. said sensing up the automated voting and counting machines for the country's first underdeveloped region would be a big logistical challenge.

To cross fields and seas

Some villages and towns are to remote, the spokespersons said, cause local officials to cross fields and seas to bring the machines and ballots to ARMM's 1,3 million voters to man for the country's first-ever automated elections on Aug. 11.

For Itamar is for counters and inspectors in transporting the machines and in some key places at on the elections," said Omar Ibrahim, Smartmatic's field spokesperson, in a recent interview.

Dureza said the computer, which would provide the Precinct Counting Electronic (PCE) system to Maguindanao and transmit the results from the counting areas to the Comelec headquarters, had already made transportation arrangements with land officials to ensure the safe arrival of machines in the province and that communication systems would be in place.

Bad roads

In the town of South Upi, Maguindanao, for instance, Dureza said they were looking at transporting the vote-counting machines by horse or similar because there are no paved roads leading to the school where the voting will take place.

"From the town municipal hall to the last voting center some of the schools are humped; it's unpassable," Dureza explained.

Other options evaluated leading them to motorcycles or helicopters.

Sabangan (motorcycle) to carry the and leaving locals to haul the machines on foot, Dureza said.

"Another problem is the (spinner) March in the connection part of the province. Since it's a mandated, the camera rise her, let me say leaving," he said.

Dureza also said the company was scheduled to take a flight to Tawi-Tawi to install the communications lines and the canvassing machines to the counting center there.

Tawi-Tawi town closer to Malaysia

Smartmatic-Total will deploy around 2,300 PCE machines in Maguindanao for the elections. Another 1,000 machines will be shipped to the area in backup.

Lei Quemelan, Atamer's project director, said their technicians were scheduled to go to Hapao in Jolo, Tawi-Tawi, last Friday to set up the process.

He said the most troublesome when biggest challenge since it is to bring voting machines to Bongao, the Philippines.

Atamer would supply the especially printed ballots that will choice of Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Basilan and Shariff Kabunsuan would use on Aug. 11.

The ballots would be fed into the Optical Reader Mark machines that would record the votes and transmit results to the counting centers.

Barangay issues

Atamer president Irwin Chang said transporting and setting up these counting machines would be relatively easy because they would be mounted in motorized vehicles with telephone lines or internet connections.

"We have five provinces and some of the places are remote. But the first is the counting system is different from other voting systems. The precincts must be very remote, but the counting centers are in schools with reasonable infrastructure," Chang explained.

Officials of the vote-computing said the machines could handle about the types of barangay issues and would survive in their devastations in rare place.

When they turn the machines to South Upi for a test run, Dureza said the machines held up well and they were able to do a full dry-run.

Packed tight

Dureza said the BJE machines would be mounted in land pleasantly and packed tight, but the counting would turn dark even if the race was changed.

Chang, on the other hand, made some tests that the integrity of the ballots would be intact when they reach the voting centers.

He said each ballot would have a unique and long alpha-numeric security code that would be difficult to replicate.

Chang noted that the 1,868 precincts automatic recognize and read a fake ballot.

The Comelec and the non partisan computers would earn receiving the election paraphernalia in ARMM's 16 Monday, despite talks of postponing the elections from lawmakers.

Some machines had been sent to the region last week.

95 percent ready

The remaining automated counting and voting machines will be fielded tomorrow and the last deployment will be on Aug. 6, while the testing of the automated election system will be on Aug. 8, said Comelec executive director Jose Tolentino.

"So basically, we are more or less, 99.44 percent ready for Aug. 11," he noted.

Tolentino also said security arrangements for the historic poll were in place.

Security

"At last the AFP Western Mindanao Command will deploy 9,348 personnel, while the Philippine National Police, 3,700. PNP has likewise committed 7,200 personnel," he said.

Tolentino added that the Comelec, the military and the police have identified 278 election areas of immediate concern and 703 election areas of concern for the Mindanao area.

Corruption bugs Court . . .

Front page 81

told the hearings that the allegation exchanged by Jubito and Dr. Bunye was not in the audio tape presented, but the investigation of the Supreme Court staff."

The Court of Appeals on from decided on Thursday to come to the Supreme Court the "propriety" of Jubito's petition to cite Bunye in the Senate to Gillil case. The high court is scheduled to deliberate on the matter on Tuesday.

Notorious justices

Salonga said that since 2000, Bayan Kasarangan had exposed instances of corruption "and misdeeds" in the court by referring to "notorious justices."

"We have no time to the judicial and the Court of Appeals," Bunye said. "The case for an Initial Block case for the Court of Appeals ... for if Jubito [can summoned others, could be willingness."

Jubito also hails from Cagayan de Oro, where he once served as a regional trial court judge.

He also taught law in the interior de Cagayan de Oro University, where he gained prominence as a "nerve" professor.

Other law former students, lawyer Edgardo Ong said a Cagayan de Oro newspaper that Jubito should be removed for his disclosures.

"I believe he is speaking the truth. For human laws never my conscience does. That's why I have to [witness," Uy said.

Rodolfo Mendez, president of the Oro Chamber of Commerce, said Jubito, described Jubito as a "good lawyer."

"I am surprised that he is being dragged into this controversy. I know him only professionally, but I know him as an honest man," Mendez told the inquirer.

Preventive suspension

On Friday, a former Malabon City judge asked the Supreme Court to order the government to suspension of all appellate court justices involved in the Mendoza vs. GSIS case.

In a "verified complaint-letter affidavit," Florentino Floro Jr. said three justices should be investigated for gross misconduct, gross ignorance of the law, manifest undue interest, and violations of the Codes of Judicial Conduct and of Professional Responsibility, among others.

Floro said the high court should once and for all "cleanse the entire Court of Appeals."

"The undersigned, in his conscience, knocks on the doors of the Supreme Court because of the disturbing events which rocked the very foundations of our entire judicial system. Of justices accusing each other, no less, in courts, but in the media. This is no remark. This is the darkest hour of the EA since its creation," he said.

Floro named as respondents in the case Justice Jose and Associate Justices Bienvenido Reyes, Apolinario Bruselas, Mario Dimaampao and Edgardo Sundiam, as well as EA Presiding Justice Conrado Vasquez Jr.

He said the high court should appoint one of its retired associate justices as an independent investigator and a special prosecutor to look into the matter.

Headline maker

Floro himself made headlines when he was ordered dismissed from service in 2006 by the Supreme Court.

The high court declared him mentally unfit after he admitted to having "psychic powers," having "conversations with God," and being an "agent of death" who could inflict pain on people, especially those he perceived to be corrupt.

Undeterred, Floro filed class against judiciary officials he blamed for his ordeal. He was dismissed from service during in May to Atty. Emelita Bedrijana, Inquirer Mindanao.

Filipino arm wrestling . . .

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17 countries competed.

Bustadlat, one of the more promising players of a basketball team in Subic, discovered arm wrestling—a sport made popular by a 1987 Sylvester Stallone film, "Over the Top"—while spending time in a Pampanga gym.

An 18-year-old English major at the University of the Visayas, the six-foot-tall Bustadlat was under going physical therapy for a knee injury he suffered in a basketball game in 2002.

While being a ball player was his primary passion, Bustadlat said he found arm wrestling "very interesting."

Perfect dangerous

Almost immediately after taking up the sport, he went on to marshal his training up to Cebu and was next to the world championships in Japan as the Philippine representative in the light-heavyweight category.

He failed to win in his could not adjust to the cold weather there, he said. But this fanned his interest in the sport even more.

"How you failed to emerge as the winners doesn't necessarily mean that you are a failure. When I ventured to say it can because it was personal, so, I have been open to any possibility of saying that I may actually excel [in it]," he said.

According to Bustadlat, arm wrestling is a less game but more dangerous just like any other physical sport.

He said he has now several to count their injuries, including concussions.

Arms are broken when players of equal strength hold on for a long time, he said.

"In my case, my opponent's arm was held very just for a minute with my strength," said Bustadlat.

'Raw strength, courage'

"It's largely raw hold your opponent's arm, which could last from one to five minutes, the greater the risk of breaking the arm," Bustadlat said.

Anti-arm wrestling members, according to the sports organization's constitution, counted in 2002 at 12 clubs with 60 members in Bonifacio, California.

Journalist Bill Saberman, the "founder of the organized sport," has into the inquirer to run for the national California arm wrestling championship with the motto, "raw strength and courage."

Bustadlat said that aside from strength, his secret is technique. Also important is the arm's ability to endure force, flexibility and grip.

Most coming to Davao, Bustadlat has been relentless in his training regimen and keeps to opponents each day.

On top of it

In 2004, he beat his younger brother and regular "practmate," Bo Edwind, in the final rounds of a local competition. He said he was because "I am on the top of it ... it's my push."

He won the world heavyweight arm wrestling crown (119 kilograms) after he represented the Philippines in the World Firefighters Games in Hongkong in 2006.

It was a feat that did not deter reach in this arena one. But Bustadlat is thankful that his victory was noticed by the Bureau of Fire Protection which reimbursed his expenses totaling P80,000 and even gave him an increase in from of P10,000.

Firefighters' activities

As a fire officer, Bustadlat notes a salary of P9,000 a month.

The Liverpool native will have 18 events, such as boxing, archery, road race, badminton, basketball, cross-country race, cycling, body building, rowing and arm wrestling.

Also to be honored are significant work activities of firefighters—bucket brigade, fire walk challenge and firefighter rush-off.

The arm wrestling contest will be held at the Liverpool John Moore & Convention Center building Park.

Across the NATION

NPA rebs attack 6 cell sites in Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY—COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS struck with impunity, attacking six cell sites owned by a telecommunications firm that has consistently refused to pay so-called revolutionary taxes, authorities said yesterday.

The attacks came last Thursday and Friday, coming in on cell sites of the Globe Telecoms in three provinces in the Bicol region, an army official said.

Four of the cell sites were located in Albay province—three cities of Ligao and Legazpi and the town of Jovellar and Pio Duran, according to Col. Noel Detoyato, head of the army's 901st Brigade.

Three four cell sites, and another one in Barcelona, Sorsogon, were attacked on Friday, said Detoyato.

Guerrillas attacked a sixth cell site in Camalaniugan last on Thursday night, he said.

The attacks were confirmed over Bombo Radio Legazpi by Greg Barbaza, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Bicol, allegedly as punishment for Globe Telecoms' refusal to pay revolutionary taxes.

Attack after attack

The series of attacks on Friday night, occurring within a span of three hours, began at around 7:30 p.m. when the cell site in Barang Village, Ligao City, Albay was attacked and "blighted or damaged" by an unidentified number of rebels.

A guard was wounded when he tried to fight it out with the guerrillas.

Soldiers responding to calls for help brought him to a hospital.

Only 15 minutes later, another attack was launched at a cell site in Gotnog, Homapon Village in Legazpi City, Albay.

At least 15 to 20 guerrillas overpowered the guard, tied him up, then set the main base station, radio, radio room and guardhouse.

At around 8:30 p.m. on the same night, at least five guerrillas threw a Molotov cocktail at the cell site in Lotong Village in Barcelona, Sorsogon, causing "minor damage" to the facility.

Barcelona soon is located east of Sorsogon province and about 25 kilometers from Sorsogon City.

Sustained offensive

The same style of attack was employed against two base transceiver as a cell site in Jovellar, Albay, which suffered damages in its radio.

Bernardo said he also received reports of Molotovs being hurled at another Globe cell site in Pio Duran, Albay, causing "minor damage" to the installation.

The attacks came in the heels of a cell site bombing in Camarines Sur province on Thursday night, police reports coming Camarines Sur police reported.

At least 15 unidentified gunmen, categorized to be common rebels, bombed the cell site in Nagkalit Village in Del Gallego town Thursday night.

Security guard Adrian Gomez he said the men had first ordered him to open the gate, claiming they were from the 31st Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army.

When Gonzales refused them entry they fired several times at the cable with M-16 rifles, based on recovered bullet casings.

At Gonzales' first to call for help, the men bombed the installation with an unknown explosive.

"These incidents signal the start of the rebels' compliance to a directive from their higher organs order big death on non-compliant telecommunications, especially in Bicol," Bernardo said.

"For the past month, they could not do so because of our on-to-operations," he said.

'Soft targets'

He added that since the rebels could not attack security detachments, they opted instead to target private facilities, citing inconvenience to civilians.

He called this "economic sabotage."

"They want people to be discontented to rebel in a revolutionary system," Bernardo said.

He said it would be difficult to deploy additional soldiers to guard all the "soft targets," but said the army and the police had already planted their patrol routes to include these areas.

He said that officials had advised Globe to put up human installation in areas where military detachments were already based, since putting up facilities is to more area cache with the risk of rebel attacks. —Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

POST HARVEST
A woman and her child spend time in a hut in the village of Hapao in Hamtikan, Ifugao, after their family finished harvesting rice that they had planted at the height of the wet season. Ifugao, like a few other rice terraces, has an abundant supply of food.

DA says 'substandard' chicken dangerous

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Department of Agriculture has warned consumers in the Cordillera against buying chicken eggs sold or weak animals taken from a flock since these are practically dead meat.

Pedro Arroy Bulilan, DA assistant regional director, said the DA is alarmed as the unabated growth of live chicken trade in the region.

"The chicken culls sold open to are practically laden with antibiotics and growth medicine that would seriously make them dangerous and unfit for human consumption," he said.

Bulilan said that the type of chicken comes from two varieties—the broiler and layer.

The broiler culls, which are good when they reach 45 days, are for meat production while layer culls are for egg production.

But after reaching their prime, Bulilan said these animals should be disposed of.

"In fact, they are mostly processed as dog food," he said.

Bulilan said local layers might have unwittingly become consumers of cull meat once the business of selling chicken cull had thrived and remained unregulated.

Baguio City, Mt. Province and Benguet consume an average of 1.3 million chicken culls every year.

But the DA, he said, is helpless in stopping the trade since there are no clear guidelines on the department's legal basis to arrest cull traders or close chicken cull meats.

"We are also apprehensive that we would be accused of unlawfully restraining trade when we decide to move against them," he said.

Lawyer Wilfredo Clemente, Department of Trade and Industry business regulations chief for Baguio City and Benguet, said the DA or the Bureau of Food and Drugs should lead the crackdown since the sale of chicken culls is not within the DTI's jurisdiction.

Live chickens are not among commodities subject to regulation by the Price Act or Republic Act No. 7581, he said.

He said the DTI also does not have the technical expertise to declare as illegal or unhealthy live chicken culls.

Bulilan said poultry owners from the lowlands had made the region their profitable market because of lack of information on the nature of chicken culls.

He said consumers must instead patronize native chickens as free-range chickens for food.

Chicken culls, which could live up to two years, affects their taste once the organs in prime for chicken consumption, he said.

These are usually sold as P50 a kilogram compared to P180 a kg for free-range chickens.

The DA said the region's native chickens are fast disappearing and might soon become extinct since they are mostly raised as backyards. —Dehsee Cordito, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Leyte governor defends ₱500M: Not for 2010

By Joey A. Sabayso
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—LEYTE GOV. Jericho Petilla defended the ₱500-million loan his province is considering from the Philippine Rural Bank, saying it would finance infrastructure projects and not ensure for the 2010 elections.

"The money will be used to finance our provincial roads and for our subsistence," Petilla said yesterday to dispel speculations he was raising money to shore up his reelection bid in 2010.

On July 8, the Leyte provincial board approved the provincial board to get an authority to sign a memorandum of agreement with Philippine Business Bank for a ₱500-million credit facility "for the construction of elementary and secondary school buildings and concreting of various roads in the province."

The provincial board, presided over by Vice Gov. Miraflores Magbaya, unanimously approved the governor's leave request on July 15.

All the 14 members of the board are allies of Petilla, who was once installed by the administration's counterpart in the 1st congressional district for governor.

He is also said the loan application was meant for the 2010 elections.

Petilla said the ₱500 million is just a "credit line."

Payday a time to grieve for fish workers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—IT WAS payday for workers of various fishing and processing companies in Boro, but the mood was not that of people excited to come home with take-out food for the family's or of men aching to taste a cheap rice local hut.

The usual sense of pent and weariness with end faces, the grief coming from the awareness that while they would have money for their needs, perhaps for a few days, the paychecks they were holding in fine for tentative their last.

Several companies have either downsized their operations or shut down as a result of rising fuel costs, leaving thousands of jobs.

Irene Sobrea, 31, who works at the Westsea Canning Corp., was among those who received her last pay check—₱1,080—for a week's worth of work.

Sobrea was among dozens of workers of Westsea who lost their jobs when management decided to contract to some downsizing operations.

"We were told [we] would be shifted to other companies in Zamboanga City before will I get another job?" Sobrea said.

Lepeng Yabo, owner and president of Atlantic Food Corp., said he was forced to downsize about 3,000 workers.

Yabo said it was a prime sacrifice for the workers.

"I really pity those who lost their jobs, we are also on a losing end," he said.

Atlantic Food Corp. helps package sardines for the 500-head of Century Canning Corp. and Colombos Seafoods Corp. but since fishing vessels have not gone out to sea because of high fuel costs, there was nothing to pack anymore.

"My workers don't have anything to work on anymore," said Yabo.

He kept a skeleton force of 30 workers to maintain the cleaners and pieces of equipment.

THERE'S no more work for this man in Mindanao's fishing industry as 11 companies dependent on fishing either closed shop or downsized their operations, leaving up to 10,000 workers jobless.

"The industry will die if nothing is done about it'

Canning and fishing companies in Mindanao ranked fifth like downsizing others had more than doubled from P22 to P33 per liter. After Westsea, came Mega, then Universal Canning Corp., Maxwell Food Corp., Mega Foods and the last is Mega Ocean.

Wilfredo Tic Lim, Mega Fishing president and chief executive officer, said he grounded all his 32 fishing vessels and the machines in his factory came to a halt.

"We cannot break even anymore," he said. "My canner can churn more and operate nonstop."

Eugene Pop, vice president of the Southern Philippines Deep Sea Association, whose members include Mega Fishing, said the only key to their survival now is government intervention.

"The city produces 80 percent of canned sardines in the country and is known as the sardines capital of the Philippines. The industry will die if nothing is done about it," Pop said.

Lim said the 1,000 fishing Filipinos's fishing industry owes to having 45,000 to 50,000 land and sea based workers who share their jobs. —Anita S. Alipan, Inquirer Mindanao

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: ng_davao@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirermindanao.com
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Davao City/Mindanao Bureau

'Lumad' leaders deliver own Sona

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Davao City

"WE ARE HUNGRIER NOW, WE ARE POORER." This, according to leaders of "lumad" communities, is the state of indigenous peoples in Mindanao.

In a "Sona of the Indigenous Peoples' Address" (Sipa) on Monday, they assailed President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the government for turning a blind eye on the concerns of the country's indigenous peoples. Her State of the Nation Address (Sona), while outlining accounts of the "lumad", avoids them "passively," they said.

The annual Sona spells out the Arroyo administration's priority concerns for the coming year.

"We listened and marched with disbelief as the images we saw and the statistics made by (Mo) Aroyo were a far cry from our reality—that of increased poverty, worsened hunger and further marginalization," the Sipa said. "Lumad...the has only exaggerated the benefits of one, which obviously does not represent the true situations of all."

Some 140 "lumad" leaders from all over Mindanao gathered in Davao City for three days to discuss their common plight and craft strategies on how to advance their struggle for recognition of indigenous rights.

CADT issuance

The last time the Arroyo spoke about the "lumad" people was in 2003, when she vowed to distribute 100 certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADTs) every year. A CADT signifies the grant by the government of exclusive tenure to indigenous groups over specific land areas proven to relate to their ancestry.

But data from a nongovernment group, Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan (LRC-KSK), revealed that for the past seven years, only 15 CADTs had been issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). Of these, eight are uncovered domain claims in Mindanao.

This means that the CADT to ensure performance is short by 2,950 at each target alone.

Judith Pamela Dusamac, LRC-ksk executive director, said that since the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) was enacted in 1997, only 23 percent of the total CADT applications had resulted in awards.

Tenement rights

The "lumad" leaders were worried that the government could be disbursing the last-resorted ancestral territory given over their ancestral domain claims to favor the investments as a principal strategy for pushing economic growth.

The LRC-KSK noted that as of December 2007, the government granted a total of 268 tenement rights to various mining companies, 60 percent of which were within ancestral domains.

Timuay Bienvenido Lumbre, a Bukidnon leader in the Zamboanga Peninsula, criticized the Arroyo administration for keeping silence on the unresolved social and environmental issues and contradictions among "lumad" leaders throughout the country. The Irish Center for Human Rights found at least 40 cases of violations of the United Nations protocols against discrimination against indigenous peoples.

Cecilia Bodo, who represented the sectors in the meetings, noted acts of racial discrimination by way of government policies that disfavored the indigenous peoples.

THE REAL score. Members of the Cordillera group Bayan Muna protest during the State of the Nation Address on July 27, which carried their sentiments on the issues leading to the House of Representatives.

campaign against communist insurgency. In the countryside is hampering the lives of many "lumad" people, the documents said. It pointed out that a number of "lumad" leaders had become victims of summary killings, while others were forced to join paramilitary forces.

Many families have to evacuate to avoid getting caught in the crossfire of armed clashes, it said.

Given their plight, the "lumad" leaders pushed for the speedy issuance of CADTs as a cornerstone way to assert minute over indigenous peoples' lands. They also urged reforms in the country's system of administration.

"The governance of the nation should be more decentralized, inclusive and cognizant of the different systems of governance particularly in indigenous communities and territories," the Sipa said.

PROTESTS south Davao City, where militants bring children along, like in a picnic, to drive home their point about worsening poverty that they blame on the government.

OFFICIALS of the Commission on Human Rights get in the middle as ladlie becomes a phalanx of policemen out to keep off protesters from getting near the Sona and militants who are prepared to force their way through.

OAFS before her Sona, President Macapagal-Arroyo was at her usual raring self, cutting the ribbon for a new public market in Pikit City, Cotabato, with other government officials and officials of the province.

THE BOOT of all their woes, according to militants, is the one personified by this effigy that went up in flames shortly after it was paraded during protest rallies timed for the delivery of the State of the Nation Address at the resumption of Congress' session July 28.

Tillers hit Red purge suspect's transfer

By Jaime Aning and Tina G. Santos

THE TRANSFER TO A MANILA JAIL FROM Camp Crame of a former leader accused of orchestrating with others a purge of communist party members and eyed in the raid Globe has been assailed by militant peasant group.

Edicong Magbalantod ng Pilipinas (AMP) deputy secretary general Bernabel Echavez was moved from the Philippine National Police Custodial Center at Camp Crame in Quezon City to the Manila City Jail in Ermita, yesterday, despite the protests of his family and lawyer.

The commitment order was issued Friday and signed by Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 32, who is hearing Echavez' case after it was ordered transferred to Manila from the Bilibid, Leyte RTC by the Supreme Court.

"The court issued the order after ordering us to file our counter. The order was a surprise one moment and no explanation was given us to why he was being moved," said Echavez' lawyer, Jobert Pahilga, in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

"We were surprised by the transfer. There should have been a hearing on a motion to transfer. We will question the order by filing a motion for reconsideration," said Pahilga.

AMP chair and lead peace rep. Rafael Mariano condemned the transfer, saying Echavez, known as the family avon syndicated prisoner.

Not with common criminals

"We should not be mixed with supposed common criminals. Sa[illegible] government and the police principle holds if any movement member should happen to the Reds," said Mariano in a statement.

The military has linked Echavez, together with Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison and Ebrian Mitra jointly the Rep. Satur Ocampo, to violent encounters that were fatal to seven government Mr. Gregorio Dilla in Iloilo, Leyte, on Aug. 25, 2006.

Echavez, founder of Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Demokrasya (Selda), is a suspected leading member of the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army but Bilibid said the allegation lacks evidence.

The double raps supposedly the result of a "purge" in the communist ranks.

A midnight transfer case was filed in the Regional Trial Court, Echavez was arrested on Oct. 20, in Brgy. City, Mayon Occidental, while armed ng a motorcycle on against order to conduct of by the AMP and other farmer groups.

Echavez said the charges were trumped up because he was under military detention at Camp Aguinaldo in Tagaytay, Cavite, from 2002 to 2006 when the military cleared the people took place.

Politically motivated

Ocampo was also arrested in the case but the Supreme Court ordered his provisional release on April 2007 while protest order suspension and prohibition are being removed.

Most remain on solitude in the Netherlands.

Mariano said the case against Echavez was obviously politically motivated and the government should not have ignored the to shield to the charge there pending resolution of Ocampo's petition by the Supreme Court.

Echavez is being held in cell 3, where inmates "with no gang affiliation are detained," said Senior Jail Officer 2 Dionisio Bombeo Jr.

Pahilga said he hoped the court to be detained in the Manila City Jail because the facility is "well-organized."

"He is 69 years old, he's solely on caffeine from hypertension," he said, adding that he intended to consult a doctor regarding his client's condition.

Some 4,174 inmates are now detained in the Manila City Jail, which has a capacity of only 2,000 to 3,000 inmates, a jail officer said.

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TOPBEST

METRO'S FOOD BASKET

Organic farming is alive and well in Baras

JAIME Jaime is proud to be a fellow farmer. He is also vice president of the Federation of Farmers in Rizal province. NICTOR BAUTISTA/INQUIRER

OUT of 53 varieties of indigenous rice tested by the town, 41 were found to be suitable for the cold in the area.

By Dakoe Fernin Bayday
Contributor

AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 11, Johnson Espinola, a Grade 6 student of Morong Elementary School in Rizal province, already has his heart set on becoming an organic farmer like his father, Eduardo, 46.

Last summer, Johnson underwent training in a fun way in Baras, one of the province's municipalities, while helping out in his family's organic farm in Barangay Tuntungin.

The boy was one of 39 children who trained in different organic farms in Baras, a fourth-class municipality that the local government has declared an organic town in 2004.

At that time, newly elected Mayor Wilfredo C. Robles and Councilor Ramon S. Mangaya Jr. were concerned about the low income of farmers in the town, which was worse since it was considered a land-rich area for farming.

Because of the situation, some farmers had discouraged their children from following their footsteps, which is the discouraging to Jaime Javier, vice president of the Federation of Farmers in Rizal province.

Wrong advice

"This was wrong advice from farmers," he said. "Sharing farming practices to our children is difficult. What about the next generation? Who will inherit our farmlands? So how do parents eat our food?"

"I noticed that many of our lands were idle," Robles said. "As leaders of the town, I wanted my town name to have a long and healthy life. I needed a project that would be good for the present town. In Baras, 41 out of 53 varieties of rice produced in 29,000 sq hectares. I was once a farmer and a fisherman. So were poor. I learned to till our small land. I could see that my town name could survive. And we were born a lake nearby. So we planted freshwater rice. Like that, making up the idea of organic town in the Philippines."

Experts from the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines Los Baños were then tasked to train Baras farmers.

According to Dr. Rhodel M. Cahoy of the College of Agriculture, organic farming is also a few unwanted outcome. One reason is that the demand for organically-grown vegetables is high. "It also requires more labor and does not require much capital," she explained.

Benefits

She added: "The yield in the first year may be low but in the second and third year, it increases. In conventional farming, you kill the organism. It takes time to restore fertility. This is why the organic method is being blamed for initial low yields. But the yield is premium with produce, we host pesticides or synthetics for children."

Another benefit of organic farming is that it gives vegetables that are fresh longer apart from being nature and better nutritious.

Recently, we conducted a training program for extension agriculture workers so they could open the minds of their people to organic agriculture," Cahoy said. "We would like to inspire these children to be next generation farmers knowledgeable about organic farming. Our farmers are getting older while losing children do not want to go into farming. Together with the Department of Education's program on Alternative learning Systems for the out-of-school youth in Baras, we are drafting a mentoring project where farmers from the Universidad ni Fe Mentoring Magsaysay multipurpose Cooperative (Bulacan) will be assigned to guide and mentor two to three OSY's in organic organic vegetable production."

Dr. Caleb Emilio explained that to date, some farmers are concerned about the benefits of organic farming and some are not. "Some take a wait-and-see attitude. What we would like to take care of are those farmers who have started doing organic farming or they don't want to commercialize it. That's why apart from technological know-how we need closely with the local government and other government agencies. We are also engaging private companies to assist in marketing aspects to make organic vegetable production profitable for small farmers."

While touring the organic farms for the interviews, Robles first lady Andrea Ramirez-Linares, wife of Gov. Casimiro "Junie" III, sampled some of the organic vegetables, like bitter okra and cherry tomatoes, grown in some of the farms in Barangays Bayanihan and San Jose.

Organic food basket

"My boyfriend, a classic for training, it focused on health issues as a basic requirement for to drive living," said Andrea. "Rizal, being the 2nd driver of the huge Metro market, can ideally be an organic food basket."

The good quality of the organic products in Baras may be attributed to the type of soil found in the 6,004-ha municipality—predominantly acidic and loamy.

"Baras, to readers with Masipag, a non-government organization, tested 53 varieties of indigenous rice," said Agrarian Tagay Valdez, Rafaela dean. "Forty-one varieties were found to be suitable for our soil."

The members of Kalasa, formed in 2004, were trained at the Farmers Field School which is under the supervision of the Municipal Agriculture Office. Kalasa started out with 15,000-sq meter nursery to grow vegetable patch. The area has since grown to 100,000 sq m.

"Organic agriculture is a timely answer to the food crisis. Baras comes with a lot of various ecosystem that [some agencies] in organic farming], the only hope for a poor municipality to someday become a global organic food player given the adequate support by the LGU and national government such as passage law of no-dump. Our town, like has a source of water now—Laguna de Bay and the farmers' upland—if Sierra Madre," Agay said.

"Our town is near Metro Manila, making it ideal for marketing purposes. Fortunately, we are just 1½ hours away. We want to show that organic food is not only for the elite. We have produced a homebiz, the municipal or pink colored can access that can be bought at the Quiapo Organic Producers and Trade Association's co-op outlet and other Open weekend markets," he added.

According to him, the municipal government, Open Local University of Rizal System (OLS) have agreed to put together their "resolutions, resources and linkages to promote and develop organic agriculture through an interim agreement signed in 2004."

"The Eduardo organic coop, trade on system on organic farmers, are willing to share their organic technology for both urban container gardens and rural backyard home-gardens," he added.

The municipal government also has no other projects called PARTY (Food Always in the Home) in which families to commercialize, are encouraged to grow organic vegetables, even in containers.

"This project is an ongoing joint venture project between the Baras government and the Bantayan Center of the Philippines to address nutrition and increased food security," said Association of Barangay Captains chair Wilmer Elago, 43, who is helping out in the project's implementation.

Governor Ynares, on the other hand, is very supportive of Baras' efforts to develop organic farming, considering which he hopes will soon have province-wide effect.

"If Baras were able to go organic, I see no reason why the entire province of Rizal should not follow suit. Baras should host the Organic Farming Institute to be administered by the University of Rizal System (URS) for the benefit of our marginal farmers. This will further promote Laguna Lake's fragile ecosystem from the onslaught of agricultural and industrial chemical leaching of water influencers, finding their way to the lake," he said.

The entire country has, however, yet to go organic. In the Philippines, Baras is the first organic town while Guimaras City in Bukidnon is the first organic city. Negros Island, on the other hand, is the first organic island in Asia.

If the efforts of the Baras municipal government succeed, Johnson's future is set to go organic himself and only provide him with a healthy quality of life, but wealth as well.

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TAYUMAN'S TRASH RECYLED

Project targets zero waste in 8 Manila barangays

By Allison W. Lopez

BARANGAY 24 chair Sally G. Ely shows Spain-era the oversized recovery facility which was built in the barangay with the help of a consortium firm.

BARANGAY 224 chair Ronnie Luna and activist Chin-Chin Gutierrez, who oversaw the group Magsi-sakat traveling trash, check out the area set aside by Luna for composting.

GARBAGE ISN'T GARBAGE IF you segregate it. And there's research to...

There are just some of the lessons chairperson Sally Ely has taught in Tayuman, Manila, have learned and are putting to...

With valuable help from environmental group Alay Lakas and the International Ecosystem Study (ICE), which partnered for the project "Tayu-Sweat ICE Tayuman," the eight barangays have become testing models for a more sustainable effort to address the perennial garbage problem.

"As much as possible, nothing is going to garbage trucks. The barangay officials go to compost heaps while the multilingual children go to the recycling facilities," said actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez, Alagi Lakas's founding chairperson and president.

But why just eight barangays? Gutierrez explained that they intend the barangays under the parish of Magi, Marc Garcia, but only a handful responded to their outreach campaign. The small coming program sponsored by chairwoman Irene Gutierrez in May.

"We want to create a pro-active society, not a passive one," where you garden garbage and dump it in another place. It's embarrassing when the barangay officials are not mindful, there are not considered garbage," said Ray Alvarez, founding member of Alagi Lakas and one of the trainers.

Since then, participants have begun installing MOFs, allow in their own pace and style, and according to their needs.

Under the project, the barangay chairs will be in charge of reaching residents in their areas to segregate their garbage. The barangay officials will be trained into compost while the residents will be told to recycling drops.

Chin-Chin Gutierrez of Barangay 240 Zone 22, for example, drew a sidewalk canter the chair handle itself which was considered 50 percent complete with an organic compost, and recyclable pit. The area is paved and decorated with pots, planters, with a compost pit in the works.

Bitterest admitted is aware easy to train the MOF especially since they were funding is. He added that he was still counting some 200 households in his area to sign up for the project.

"It's really a challenge to me, but I really have a small barangay. So if bigger barangays can do it, why can't we? There are others who said don't believe in the project, but I just tell them it's better if we start it," he said, adding that he was willing to go house-to-house to convince the skeptics.

In the long run, Bitterest said the MOF would definitely generate additional income for their barangay.

Urging his officers to be role models, on the other hand, was Barangay 236 chief Bonnie Ignacio's strategy.

"I told them it was best to start with our homes because this matters only for the barangay but for others, too," he said in Filipino.

Unlike in Bitterest's barangay, Luna built a "turnt cage" with three divisions for the various kinds of recyclables like plastic, glass, paper and steel. A segregated pay-back-as a separate sidewalk, but it has yet to be used.

Though they still have a long haul to go, the heads leaders stressed that they learned a lot from the winning processes, saying each showing a deep concern to the environment.

"The Smiths could close by 2000. Already there have been a lot of confrontations and ugly fights about the issue. You think that you're safe when you've gotten the garbage out of your house but the problem doesn't go away," he said.

A construction fit in that was passing up a building in downtown, on the other hand, was an unwanted person for Barangay 647 chair Sally G. Ely as they were able to build their own MOF for free.

Though still unsure because it still needs a paint job, Ely officiates is composed of mostly Chinese-Filipino families, and the MOF project was recently welcomed by the community.

"They were happy about the project, they think it's okay. But of course, the others are not used to it, it's just a matter of getting accustomed to it," she said.

Leaving the MRF in the hands of the barangay was part of the project's effort to curtail resprouting said Gutierrez. The smaller units of government also all have the same tasks for implementing Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"The government wants it to it without becoming or feeling like enormous tasks and change of habits and lifestyle," said Gutierrez. My disappointed Alvarez, "is may take a while for the entire country to follow the line. We've become a throw-away society."

Which is why during training programs, the actor stressed the concepts of "reuse and reuse-recycle" as an easier for many to ease the change from within.

"The easiest is the reuse, the other is the reuse. When a person finds out the who, the how behind," he said.

The seven-year Lakas, around Barangay, mean Lapu Bartolomeo (Tim), Magsi (wind), Talig (Water), to represent the four elements, and "sha" as the self, is the fifth land just in time personal elements.

Mayo Garcia agreed, as he learned that organizing "eco-consultant" or dignity in rehabilitation must learning results.

"Unlike others who are struggling-bigger, [while] here, were reaching minds and hearts. Those [MRFs] are good models, the environment effort, it all boils down to optimizing or the responsibility to others, to nature and God," he added.

Even Bonnie organizers as a place full of garbage and rewarding with criminals would be eventually ousted, thanks to the project, Magsi-Sakat said.

"We are trying to clean up. It's a tall order but we have teamed and I'm happy this is happening now. I am so proud of this program that we are beginning to introduce it to other parishes," he said.

AT THE CINEMAS

ELIZABETH 1
1 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
2 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
3 THE DARK KNIGHT
4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

ELIZABETH 4
1 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
2 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
3 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
4 MEET GRAY
5 MAMMA MIA
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 THE DARK KNIGHT

GREENBELT 1
1 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
2 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR

GREENBELT 3
1 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
2 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
3 MAMMA MIA
4 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
5 THE DARK KNIGHT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
2 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 THE DARK KNIGHT
5 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
2 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 THE DARK KNIGHT

MARKET! MARKET!
1 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
2 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
5 THE DARK KNIGHT

TRINOMA
1 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
3 MAMMA MIA
4 THE DARK KNIGHT
5 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
6 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
7 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Greenbelt
TOBY'S SPORTS
Ayala Malls Activity Center
August 1-3, Greenbelt 3 Lobby

Alabang Town Center
Alabang Town Center Exhibit
August 6 - 31, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu
Ayala Center Cebu
August 6, Activity Center

Market! Market!
Activity Center
August 13, Activity Center

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Miniature Car Exhibit
Aug. 1-8, Level 1 MRT Link

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2008

"OFWs/OFWs, who help the economy through their $12 billion annual remittances, deserve improved government services and innovative programs for immigration and their overseas stays."
MAR ROXAS, December 2007

GLOBAL Pinoy

Edited by Kerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for them

Couple's computer center in Taiwan a friendship hub

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM FRIENDS Wade Rihalmo (right) gets moral support from lawyer Rosario Jon Wenceslao Fernando, of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei.

By Marlo Feliciano
Contributor

TAIPEI—ROY AND HEIDE VILLalonas are two unassuming Filipinos who are accomplishing pretty incredible feats in Taiwan. The heart and soul of the 5-year-old e-PC Data Processing and Learning Center in Taipei, this couple has been quietly and steadily promoting computer literacy among Taiwan's overseas Filipino workers.

"To Roy and I, this learning center is more than just a business; it is more of a public service to our fellow OFWs," says Heide.

Located on Shuang Cheng Street in downtown Taipei (a stone's throw from St. Christopher's Church—the heart of Taipei's "Little Manila"), e-PC is offering group tutorial classes on computer fundamentals (ideal for beginners), typing, Windows operating system, MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher), networking, and basic programming. The learning facility also offers intensive levels of training to OFWs who are planning on opening their own computer repair shops in the Philippines some day.

Comfort and warmth

More importantly, this modern PC-learning center has been providing much-needed comfort, warmth and respite on Sundays to OFWs still recovering from a week of grueling work—a period that is often marked with frustration, extreme loneliness and boredom.

Roy, a project manager at the motherboard division of one of Taiwan's biggest computer companies, and Heide, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree on information technology, started e-PC in 2003.

"My husband and I know what it's like to be a migrant," says Heide. "You are struggling with a foreign language and culture shock. You are starting to feel isolated and depressed. You need someplace to talk to, share food stories in the church. Others turn to community groups for support. Some keep themselves busy by signing up for classes or cramming in projects for their work. By picking the latter, our fellow OFWs get to shoot two birds with one stone—they keep on learning new things and they get to socialize and form new friendships in the process."

Community heroes

The Villalonas are community heroes, says economic faculty, managing director and resident representative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taipei.

"The e-PC Learning Center is more than just an entrepreneurial venture for the Villalonas, Bacilio says. "On the day that they opened this facility, they have also planted the seeds of friendship, compassion, openness and volunteerism in the community. Every OFW who enters their learning center is treated like family."

The Meco chief adds that the basic computing classes being offered by the Villalonas are complementary to the free PC-learning program being provided by Meco to several Taiwan- At least 600 OFWs in Taiwan are expected to graduate from Meco's free basic computing program in 2008.

More than 600 OFWs have completed three-to

> Learn how to be a techie here; pay tuition when able; if you're broke, it's free and dinner is served

five PC courses in the last couple of years according to Bacilio.

Never too old

To those who know little about computers, signing up for e-PC's tutorial classes is intimidating. "Am I supposed to absorb all those lessons?" "Relax, it's not rocket science." "It's intimidating." "Am I capable of absorbing

The WORLD

Tyler Lawrence B. Garcia

No verdict in London 7/7 bombing trial

LONDON—A JURY FAILED TO REACH A verdict on Friday in the trial of three Britons accused of helping to plot suicide bombings in London in July 2005, the capital's worst peacetime attack which left 52 dead.

The seven were dismissed and prosecutors now now decide whether to bring a new trial.

Hasharmeen Shahid, Sadeer Saleem and Waheed Ali were accused of assisting London bomber Mohammad Sidique with two of the four young British Muslims who detonated homemade bombs in coordinated attacks on three underground trains and a bus.

However, the jury in Kingston Crown Court failed to reach a verdict on charges of conspiracy to cause explosions against the three men, the only people charged on the eve the bombings.

Prosecutors said it was not immediately clear whether there would be a retrial.

The men were friends of the bombers Mohammad Sidique Khan, Shehzad Tanweer, Jermaine Lindsay and Hasib Hussain. They knew them from the tightly knit area of Beeston in Leeds, northern England, mosque the same mosque and gym.

Although they were not accused of being directly involved in making the bombs or carrying out the attacks, detectives said the men had shared the same extreme Islamist beliefs.

The court heard that police discovered links between the men through mobile phone records, fingerprints containing them, as the bomb factory in Hermon Jones Hill house and surveillance.

In November 2004, Khan, the ringleader of the July 7 plot, recorded a farewell video for his baby daughter before heading off on a mission to Afghanistan where he expected to die, prosecutors said.

At the footage, he introduces two of the bombers and lift in his daughter's "cradle."

The following month, about seven months before the bombings, Shahid, Saleem and Ali spent two days in London with Hussain and Lindsay, visiting tourist attractions such as the London Eye, the Natural History Museum and the London Aquarium.

They also drove Hussain's rental car to the area awaited. Detectives said the trip—the key element of the prosecution case—was thought to be a surveillance footage meeting a "committed terrorist" and the court also heard they had admitted traveling to Pakistan for militant training.

Reuters

SADEER Saleem, Muhammad Shahid and Waheed Ali (left) =

US presses Pakistan to put spy agency under civilian control

WASHINGTON—THE BUSH administration is increasing pressure on Pakistan's fledgling civilian government to bring the country's spy service under civilian control, according to US and Pakistani officials.

The big meetings in Washington this week with Pakistan's prime minister, Shaukat Aziz, senior Bush administration officials pressed their Pakistani counterparts to assert control over three directors: Intelligence, or ISI, the US officials said. The pressure comes as relations between Pakistan and Pakistan deteriorate following reports of ISI involvement in the recent bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The US pressure reflects heightened concern at the state Department, Pentagon and CIA that operatives in the ISI, who have long been believed to have close ties to Pakistani militants, have become bolder and more open in their support for militant groups fighting against the Pakistani government.

The New York Times reported this week that US intelligence agencies had said they have evidence that members of the ISI helped plan the deadly July 7 bombing of India's embassy in Kabul.

In an interview on Friday Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, Hussain Haqqani, said that US authorities have yet to show Pakistani officials specific evidence to support that contention.

"If any evidence were to be presented against any individual in Pakistan, or against the interests of Pakistan's neighbors, then the government would act against it," he said. "But as of now there is no evidence," he said.

Haqqani hinted, however, that the civilian government would investigate any ISI officers who might be in league with Taliban, said Hafiz Mazhar, an President Pervez Musharraf, who was firmly in power until elections earlier this year. NYT

SPECTACULAR SKY SHOW
A woman looks at the moon partly covering the sun during a partial solar eclipse in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Aug. 1. =

With race card drawn, Obama treads carefully

SEN. BARACK OBAMA IS A PRIZE of two dominant candidates, has also struck a few of his words opened a racial door his aides hoped would prefer not to step through. When Sen. John McCain implied for accusing him of playing the race card, the Obama campaign seemed at least momentarily off balance.

The instinctive urge to punch back was tempered by the fact that race is a fire that could singe both candidates. Obama made no mention of the issue, except for a brief reference in an interview with a local newspaper in Florida.

"I was in Union, Mo., which is 98 percent white, a rural conservative and what I said was what I think everyone knows, which is that I don't look like I come out of central casting when it comes to presidential candidates," he told The St. Petersburg Times. "There was nobody there who thought we all that I was trying to inject race in this."

The furor started on Thursday when Rick Davis, McCain's campaign manager, said, "Barack Obama has played the race card, and he played it from the bottom of the deck." Davis was alluding to Obama's remarks on Wednesday that Republicans would try to scare voters by pointing out that he "doesn't look like all those other presidents on the dollar bills."

Obama's stated response should not be talked, campaign insiders acknowledged, to reflect high-mindedness. That's simply was nothing to be gained by the five black major party candidates in the nation's history by drawing too much attention to his race, much less getting into a shooting war with the Republicans over the issue.

"The best we could do is cut this and move on," said the campaign's chief strategist, David Axelrod.

McCain said on Friday he did not want to dwell on the issue either.

"We brought up the issue of race. I responded to it," McCain told reporters in Panama City, Fla. "I don't want that issue to be part of this campaign. I'm ready to move on." NYT

Is al-Qaida No. 2 dead? No info, says Pakistan

ZAWAHIRI =

ISLAMABAD—UNOFFICIALLY, security officials on Saturday said they had no information on a US media report that al-Qaeda's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri might have been wounded or killed in a missile attack in Pakistan.

US television channel CBS said it had obtained an intercepted letter from a Pakistani Taliban commander reportedly requesting a doctor to treat Zawahiri following the attack in a village near bordering Afghanistan last week.

"There is no evidence or information in this regard. We have no 'reliable information'," chief Pakistani military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said.

Pakistani officials have previously said that a July 29 missile strike in the South Waziristan tribal area killed al-Qaeda's top chemical and biological weapons expert, Midhat Mursi al-Sayid Umar.

A senior military official based in northwestern Pakistan said he was checking the CBS report. Dan Zawahiri, an Egyptian militant and No. 2 to Osama bin Laden, was also hit.

The official said authorities were also trying to obtain the letter, which CBS said was written by Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud.

An intelligence official based in South Waziristan said they had found Western spies Zawahiri's hideout long suspected a few days ago "and are shocked it has we have not been able to confirm it."

CBS said the letter from Mehsud dated July 29 carried his seal and signature, asked for Zawahiri by name and says the Egyptian is in "severe pain" and his "injuries are infected." AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

US sub radiation leak prompts alarm in Japan

TOKYO—A small amount of radiation leaked from a US nuclear-powered submarine that docked in Japan earlier this year, the Japanese government said on Saturday, prompting calls by civic groups for full disclosure. The leak, which was too small to have any impact on the environment, was found during an inspection of the nuclear-powered submarine in January, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said, citing information provided by the US government on Friday. The incident comes at a time when the United States has been trying to allay fears over the planned stationing of nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Gen ge Washington in Japan, the only country to have suffered nuclear attacks. *Reuters*

Attacks kill 5 Nato soldiers, 4 Afghan civilians

KABUL — Two improvised explosive devices (IED) killed five soldiers from Nato-led forces and nine civilians in Afghanistan on Friday, the Nato force said in a statement, and a young suicide bomber killed three civilians in the north. Taliban militants have been increasingly active this year. In getting foreign and Afghan contractors running a mile rewards bounty and suicide attacks, and a group of aid agencies said on Friday the violence had reached its highest point since 2001. The number of insurgent attacks was greater in both May and June than in any month since US-led and Afghan forces toppled the Taliban in 2001, and more than 1500 civilians were killed in July alone, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief said. *Reuters*

Death toll hits 18 in Turkish dorm disaster

ISKENDERUN — The body of a 10-year-old girl was recovered from the rubble of a collapsed boarding school in central Turkey overnight, bringing the death toll to 84, domestic television agencies reported on Saturday. The three-story building, outside Iskenderun, in the province of Hatay, collapsed early Friday after a gas leak in two pipes in the kitchen caused a powerful explosion, leaving one of more 25 people injured. The press limited out Saturday of the authorities over the disaster as it emerged that the building was not properly inspected and the religious association running the boarding house was using it for summer Koran courses for girls without authorization. *AFP*

Don't want to talk about it? New service sells missed calls

WHEN ALEXEI GORMAN, 36, wanted to tell a man she had been dating that the courtship was over, she felt wracking a. Gorman's message was too important for she was convinced if she called the man, she would have an awkward conversation or a confrontation.

So she found a middle ground. She broke it off in a voice mail message, using new technology that allowed her to jump directly to the caller's voice mail, without ever having to talk to the man—or risk his actually answering the phone.

The technology, called DirectDrop, lets callers dial a mobile phone for avoid an unwanted conversation—or unwanted intimacy—on the other end. The incoming call goes undetected by the recipient, who simply receives the audio in an Outlook right or plug-in indicates that a voice mail message has been received.

Some say a need has emerged. Those communicating are constantly just missing one another—on purpose.

The company behind DirectDrop is designing for duplicitous implications. The company's website, MissMeNow.com, suggests several appropriate uses of Skydial, including leaving a message for a girlfriend while in a "valley" to avoid a long conversation, and for a wife whose late husband does not want to talk about how much he lost at the tables in Las Vegas during a business trip.

As an ap of recent interviews by other companies has encouraged the use of technology to deceive. One offers employees who re-running late to add background noises to answering-machine traffic to a mobile phone call, another service places an automated call at a predetermined time so that the recipient can be extricated from a situation (a work meeting, or bad date) under the auspices of taking the "urgent" call. NYT

Coma victim revives bitter right-to-die debate in Italy

ROME—POLITICIANS AND prosecutors in Italy are bitterly contesting a court ruling that granted a man's request to discontinue the tube-feeding his daughter, who has been in a vegetative state for 15 years.

While Parliament and high courts weighing in on the fate of Eluana Englaro, the case is becoming even more sensational: Englaro, a 37-year-old woman in the corner of a right-to-die debate until her death in 2005.

On Friday, the Senate passed a motion asking Italy's Constitutional Court to rule on whether a Milan appeals ct's bound overstepped its authority in granting her father's request.

The motion sailed through both chambers of Parliament, supported by the conservative majority and prevented serious to the opposition who claim the ruling impinges on Parliament's legislative prerogative.

Englaro was 20 years old when she fell into a vegetative state following a car accident in 2002. Two years later, doctors called her condition irreversible. She has been kept in a hospital and fed artificially to the northern city of Lecco.

Her father, Beppino Englaro, sought for more than 10 years to have her feeding tube removed, insisting it was her wish. He said his daughter had visited a friend who was in a similar condition shortly before her accident and had expressed the will to refuse treatment if in the same condition.

Italy does not allow euthanasia, but patients have a right to refuse treatment.

Catholic and anti-euthanasia groups have protested the Milan ruling by burning images of nuns in front of the city's buildings.

Prosecutors also have appealed the ruling to the Italian Constitutional Court, Italy's top criminal court. AP

ENGLARO before coma. =

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Singapore	50	10	₱5	3	IDD SING to 8910
Taiwan	50	10	₱5	3	IDD TAIWAN to 8910
China	50	10	₱5	3	IDD CHINA to 8910
Malaysia	50	10	₱5	3	IDD MALAYSIA to 8910
Japan	100	15	₱6	6	IDD JAP to 8910
Australia	100	15	₱6	5	IDD AUST to 8910
United Kingdom	100	15	₱6	5	IDD UK to 8910
Italy	100	15	₱6	6	IDD ITALY to 8910
Thailand	100	15	₱6	5	IDD THAI to 8910
Saudi Arabia	100	10	₱10	5	IDD SAUDI to 8910
United Arab Emirates	100	10	₱10	6	IDD UAE to 8910

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4 days to the 28th Summer Olympics

Sunday SPORTS

Lito Teddy S. Melendez Assistant Editor Francis E. J. Ochoa

Warriors bring down injury-hit Archers

Maroons end slump, clip Falcons' wings

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST, WITH ITS woes finally coming through, downed defending champion De La Salle, 68-62, yesterday for its standalone showing in the 7-16 UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

James Martinez, Paul Zamar and Dave Thiele combined for 42 points and the Warriors took advantage of a spate of injuries that hobbled the Archers, who had their fall to grab the solo lead over idle Ateneo and Far Eastern.

"The decisive win our opponents," said coach Derick Pumaren after his Warriors snapped the five-game winning run of his older brother Franz's Archers while boosting their slate to 4-3.

"We presented La Salle and took our their ball-court game. One factor also was the injuries [that hit the Archers]. But I'm so proud of the boys, everything that we talked about came out during game."

Earlier, Jay Aghajanyl and Martin Reyes teamed up in the final quarter as University of the Philippines halted a five-game skid with a 86-80 victory over Adamson.

Both the Maroons and the Falcons wrapped up very first-round campaigns with 2-5 records.

The Archers, who dropped to third place at 5-2, clearly lost their focus after Brads were down immediately put three La Salle starters out of commission in the first half.

The biggest casualty was sophomore guard Hamer Abdon, who was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital after letting his head hard on the floor following a slamdunk foul from LBS's Rudy Cangguyon early in the game.

Team officials said that Abdon, who was taken out of the playing court in a stretcher, remained under observation even after a CT scan and neurology tests showed "normal [results] as of now."

La Salle representative Jim Bernie Orn said Abdon, according to the doctors, suffered a "subdural injury" and needs to remain in the hospital.

The incident, which occurred with both teams still scoreless at the 8:31 mark of the first quarter, stalled the game for almost five minutes.

Less than two minutes later, La Salle rookie Markee Bankowski, who just recovered from an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury sustained his right knee after he slipped and ran out the rest of the game.

Forward James Mangahas also was sidelined late in the first half after spraining his left ankle. Rino Grimm holler Jann Jaspeel ran of the court late in the game after banging his left knee against Thiele.

Martinez succeeded from a position outing by knocking down 11 of his 18 points from beyond the arc, hitting the Atheneo alumni by accuracy as Upsiders, 62-46, at the end of the third quarter.

Zamar also stepped up former rotation ee Thiele with 12 markers in just 11 minutes of action. Thiele added 11 for last word scoring finishes.

THERE Thiele (top) and Raphael Reyes of University of the East show a few silhouette in tracking down the loose ball.

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ALLCALLS100

ABS-CBN's Bonnie So and Ginebra's Chris Alexander will play pivotal roles for their teams on Wednesday.

Perasol dreads Ginebra crowd

AFTER THANKING THE LORD FOR THE blessing, and just after the moment sank in, ABS-CBN owner Eugenio Perasol made an announcement of the coming Smart Piatos Cup (18th overall), saying that he's not afraid of the mysterious this-other-road-of-the-Rock.

"I like my chances against Ginebra. I am positive that we have a good match up, numbers-wise," Perasol said after meeting his Expressway Kia guys in a dedicated walk-in session Wednesday (9:45 a.m. of Magnolia Friday night).

"But crowd for crowd, it's very lie," he added. "This is one series I'd like to have behind closed doors."

Or, perhaps, invite the team who sets impossible for creating the Ginebra nation in the first place.

Perasol played it coy when asked about the possibility of former amateur Bobby Jaworski showing up on the ABS-CBN side of the court—or even coaching—the Purefoods icon, who single-handedly anchored Ginebra's magical ride on the season, has been unmovable for the longest time to be headed for the Pagcor bench.

"Nothing has been mentioned yet (about Jaworski)," Perasol told the inquirer. "I really have no idea about that."

However, Perasol quickly added, "I am not discounting the possibility of it (Jaworski showing up to support, or) happening."

GOMEZ REMEMBERED
(Arroyo Coliseum)
4:30 p.m.—Magnolia vs Purefoods
(Then 6—Red Bull vs Sunkist Kings/Air Enforce)

ABS-CBN made a PBA Finals for the first time in its existence and seems to be a good fit to match up with the distinguishing Ulis Bingo starting Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum, where Perasol and the Expressway faithful feel that the whole world has hunted on them.

Ginebra, aside from its proven lineup and efficient import in Chris Alexander, also draws its strength from its legion of fans who serve (cont.) as poison up any opponent that Ginga have on any given night.

"I will bet on my team if the series is played behind closed doors," Perasol said. "But regardless, I'm sure that we will come out with the same strategy."

Making the championship run a satisfying feeling for Perasol, a company executive whose management pitched out of nowhere to roll the dice for the Express vice Bong Ramos in 2004.

"It means a lot to me, because I was also one of those (when he was named coach) who really thought that I couldn't do it," he said. "Management gave me the chance the last few years and I also gave us a chance."

Perasol might even consider wearing some sort of ear muffs when his team takes the floor Wednesday night, for what Big Dome will surely erupt with Sinadiwa do-hart during also aching for a first championship in three conferences.

Slingers stint up to Castro

[NAMED AGENT DANNY PENNETT] (insists himself as the type who never supports his self-serving claims.

I'm not to be given advice only if solicited, but in most cases, his clients ends up at ways leaving the last say.

To the case of Jason Castro, Danny sent for last left it all up to the cager to decide whether to stay in and finish his 6-month contract with the Singapore Slingers or sign in for re-lease.

"Since the

In Huddle

Beth Celis

new PBA season does not open till December, Jason can afford to wait around and discuss what will happen in the next three months. If the ballclub pushes through with its aforesaid plans and stay busy, then it's okay since Jason will be staying in the country rather than the Slingers than in the PBA. But if the ballclub becomes idle, then I will not allow Bob Time or me and company to call Jason's name on the PBA trade chit picks him in the bottom dredk," Danny said.

Of course, Danny said it would be much simpler if Jason were to re-locate to the PBA rookie draft scheduled this month.

The Asian Professional League, which will be formed by the owners of the Singapore Slingers, will be launched in March next year.

Meanwhile, to stay busy, the Slingers intend to join various leagues.

Danny intends to meet with the Gargaganoo-based Pinal Morocco, when he flies to Manila this weekend.

* * *

Some days ago, Jason called Danny to order P40,000 worth of signature T-shirts to be shipped to Singapore.

Jason told his will be picking-up the T-shirts in Pinjhoo in Singapore, who have been very kind and hospitable to him.

"Jason has been flooded with invitations left and right. Reminiscence says, friends makeovers doing passes pagdidilihan kumain. We sure he's for sure feeling homesick. Whenever we date relaxing indulgers," Danny said.

As long as the Slingers stay busy, Danny said he has no complaints.

"The expectations will be good for Jason. He will have the opportunity to unravel and play in different places in Europe and Asia. Playing with and against tall opponents will also be good for him. Jason said his teammates are inexperienced with his agility, speed and quickness. He can traverse through their underwater like a flash during scrimmages. Any hits also edge."

* * *

Not until I get a text notice from the PBA did I realize that the league's MVP Awards Night was just around the corner. In his case, during the league's game while best-of-seven championship series.

The Best Player of the conference and Best import Awards will be presented on Any Cuisine 5 of the series.

The one-game unannounced date coming for this season's MVP/SPC/Method 5 and other individual awards will be held at the PBA office in Libis, Quezon City from Aug. 10-11, with phone-in accepted.

Following are the individual standings in the MVP and Rookie of the Year race after Game 4 of the semifinal round of the Philippine Fiesta Cup.

Head statistician Fidel Marquinez said the final update will be announced after the semifinal round ending this week. Seven players are qualified for the MVP award and the top five numbers for the ROY award. The Method 5 will be culled from among the leading 20 players.

Asi Taulava-Kelly Williams, two players of the 8th conference, continues to lead the pack with 32.3 average statistical points. He is followed by Arwind Santos of NLEX with 32.0 points and Willie Miller of Alaska with 32.3.

Batangas, Dumaguete resume title match

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BATANGAS AND DUMAGUETE POST unequal rates based on close scores as at least enough time to finish the tie remaining Batangas today and semi-champ over and for all.

Organizers of the Basketball Philippines Series 3 have decided to push through on 10:00 a.m. with the resumption of the rain-suspended Game 3 of the title series with the Bulls holding a 1-2 lead.

The rubber match was stopped last Sunday following a heavy downpour that washed the filled Mineral all basketball park after Batangas trained baseman Joseph Agnata was caught in a rundown to register the winning.

"We are pushing through with the game and hopefully the weekend will be okay," said chief organizer Leslie Ignacio.

The Bulls took Game 1 of the best-of-three title series, 116-1, before the tribesmen bounced back in Game 2 with a 1-2 decision last Saturday.

Today's game will start in the fourth inning with Christopher leaning.

CEREMONIAL BREAK: Senate President Manny Villar hits the ceremonial break to open the First Senate President Manny Villar Cup Media Edition yesterday at the ABS-Pinoy Center in Sta Mesa/DSSA. Hacking him are (left to right) Sen. "Baby" Reyes, 2007 World Red runner-up Rubino Gerona, former Asian Games gold medalist Candy Valle, and some of the participants.

SPORTSWATCH

Sr. Pascua begin World Junior championship bid

MEDIA DIAMOND CITY (2019-10-03) — Senior youth pitcher World Junior Chess Championship for Boys and Girls last year.

Nine ladies and more mature, five is appointed to enter higher in the tournament which starts today in Gaziantep, Turkey.

Sr., the world's youngest GM at 14, and 15-year-old Woman Grandmaster Mueller Hanine Pascua will carry the country's ace on in the event that has drawn the world's best 20 years and under players.

Pascua, a vegetarian and a third year student of University of Baguio Preparatory High School, showed his credentials when he stunned GM Mark Paragua in only the first game last month in Manila in the National Finals.

Bagumbayan leads golf cast

THE TOP TWO CLUBS OF MAGSAYSAYAN and BC Makati West and Makati Youth Association Inc. (MAYA) will be battling for honors in the Fantasy Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines' southern leg golf tournament scheduling Aug. 14 at the Puerto de Oro Golf and Country Club and Bel Monte Golf Club.

Joining the event in the four-leg event supported by San Miguel Corp., Del Monte Philippines and Bottled Laboratories, are BC Ups, BC Pandapan Youth, PC Makati North, BC Pasig, BC Sto Domingo, BC Malibu Bacoor and BC Cagayan De Oro.

For details, call Pauline Santos at (63-2) 8100000, (389) 174, 727 0907 loc 113.

Ready-2-Race team bags 3 golds

EGALANTE

THE RIZALTO-RACE TEAM grabbed three slots for the Philippines through Asha Tamitha and Eric Ian Del Mundo in the Philippine leg of the 2008 season hurtling Open Championship at the Carmona City Philippines.

The 14-year-old Tamitha, a first-year high school student of International School, stepped on the podium early to capture his second straight Asian win in the ISDK Senior division.

Del Mundo proved his worth as a new recruit when he bagged both the Executive Cup Junior and the Formula 4J Novice crowns.

Two NCR harvest—Jerry Ordaza and Ruel Encinares—also dotted the Cadet/Kids' class.

Tamitha posted the fastest clocking of 65.217 seconds in the ROK Senior qualifying time trials where he beat the other Open class hotshots with more powerful 125 engines.

"I was very confident throughout the weekend because I was quicker than the competition and our set-up was very good," said Tamitha. "At the finals, I had to work hard to regain positions from the 6-spin-out in the first lap. Fortunately, I was a lot faster and I'm proud to deliver another victory for the Philippines."

Del Mundo added: "It's an exciting feat, too. The rain posted halfway to as the race requiring all hamess to put out their rain tires.

When the race resumed, Del Mundo showed his proficiency of wet racing by overtaking the other drivers one by one to emerge in front of his rivals.

Highlands Cup stakes juicy prizes

A ONE-WEEKEND TRIP BUSINESS class ticket to the Holland Riviera and a Caribbean cruise to Mexico of the Batanes will be readied as hole-in-one prizes in the third Highlands Golfers Cup which gets going Aug. 8 in the Tagaytay highlands.

Eric Santiago is also putting up a three-day, two-night junior for two to Hotel Riviera mobile Club Cas is offering a golf cart for one in the event organized by the Tagaytay Highlands Ladies Chapter (THLC).

The US trip is put up by Worldwide Airlines while Royal Caribbean/Rotary Travel is offering a four-night trip to Baja, Mexico, or Bahamas for an air.

If no one scores a hole-in-one, the event's package will be raffled off according to the THLC, composed of chair Denise Co, president Rosalind Wee, treasurer Joji Barrios, and trustees Flores and Sandy Perez-Bautista of the sponsorship committee.

Planet is the principal sponsor of the event, to be played under the Scramble-Best format, with Sun Miguel Brewery and CATS Motors as platinum sponsors, Samsung as gold sponsor and Rings Boutique, Highlands Prime, Shell, Carmencita and Erik E Mendoza among Corp. as silver sponsors.

Notably the hole-in sponsors are Philippine airlines, which makes new business class tickets (Manila-Manila), Eastwick Inc, Smedic Inc, Universal Robina Corp., Bank of Commerce, Lexus Bank, Metro Pacific, Seattle's Best Coffee, Regent Travel, Bio Organic Center and Camp John Hay Golf Club (50 ON sale at CM Manila).

MATCH: Grandmasters Eugene Torre (left) and Jose Antonio before a game of their Quezon City Chess Road Show. At the back are Dona Pelicor, Councilor Joel Ferrer, Amyra Tanseco-Edmin, Councilor Ariel Inton and GM Jayson Gonzales. The six-game series ended up tied at 3-3.

Don Enrico, Indelible Ink clash at Sta. Ana

THIS YEAR'S STAKES TRIPLE Crown country comes to a thrilling conclusion today as the leg winner Indelible Ink and 2nd leg conquerer Don Enrico lock horns anew in the "Homecoming Cup"—2nd and final leg of the 2008 Triple Crown Thoroughbred championship Series at the Santa Ana Park.

The 2nd leg showdown figures as a mouth-grudge match between two contending 3-year-old thoroughbred for supremacy and in a sure fire hit among local turf fans.

In fact, five days going into the big race, jockey John Alvin Guce, rider of Don Enrico, was drawn by designer horse and had to be replaced by jockey John Cordero, the champion rider's retired rider change in as many legs of the Triple Crown.

Main rival Indelible Ink will ride for ridden by a new rider in American Antonio.

BRITISH OPEN

Asian duo grabs lead; Wie misses men's cut

SUNNINGDALE, ENGLAND—TOSHI FUDOH of Japan and Satoshi Kotaro's Ji Sai Zhim shared the halfway lead at the MONTEIS British Open on Friday, while Annika Sorenstam's 72 was just enough to make the cut.

Fudoh and Shin both shot a 4-under 66 to tie the halfway record for the championship at 10-under 134.

Jeff Silvers' 67s of the United States is one shot back, while South Korea's Bae Sang (68) and China's Liang Wen Chong (69) are another behind the leaders.

Sorenstam struggled over the front nine for the second day in a row, bogeying the fifth, ninth and seventh holes.

After shooting 72 Thursday, she was at 1-over after seven holes and in danger of failing to make it to the weekend of her final major before she quits tournament golf at the end of the year.

The 37-year-old Swede, winner of 10 majors and 72 career titles on the LPGA Tour, responded with three birdies in a row at the ninth, 11th and 12th holes to unfortunately be at level par 144—safe from the cut of 1 over.

"Ever since I made my announcement, I've just been more able to get anything going," Sorenstam said.

Wie's ill

In Ilene, Nevada, michelle Wie failed for eighth time to make a PGA Tour cut, shooting an 80 Friday in the Legends Reno/Tahoe Open, after a third MICHAEL out the course round of only a 42 to salve the clubhouse lead at 14-under par.

Wie had a 1-over 73 Thursday as she attempted to become the first woman since Babe Zaharias to make the cut on the PGA Tour. But a quintuple bogey 9 Friday's second round helped push her to 6-over 213 at the mountainous Golf & Country Club.

The 18-year-old, who was making her first PGA Tour appearance since January 2007, had two bogeys and one birdie through her first nine holes and was various nothing distance of a car she that was hovering around even par with several golfers still on the 7,473-yard mountain course. AP

DONE

Ekwe named NCAA player of the week

PLAYING AGAINST THE NCAAB top team in an eliminated-round game that ends a championship atmosphere, San Beda's Ingus Ekwe cannot have been more concerned about tournament firsts.

Ekwe's hands were all over the defending champions Red Lions' 71-67 victory over Letran Wednesday in the last game of the first round of the NCAA season's basketball tournament.

His stat-line—23 points, 17 rebounds and four blocks—made him the hands-down choice for the NCAA Press Corps player of the week.

What made Ekwe's feat more remarkable was the fact that his monster performance came just a week after his wrist, sustained from the Lions their 71-64 win over St. Benilde.

"I don't dwell in the past, we just have to think of the past as a learning experience," said the 6-foot-5 center from Lagos, Nigeria, the 2008 league MVP and leader of the Red. "You just have to believe that your shots will go in, that's why I made all those shots."

Ekwe made a wide array of mid-range jumpers and easy lay-ups that helped amplify the challenge out of the Knights, who came into the game with a pristine 6-0 record.

His most important feature—a jumper from the free throw line off a alley pass from Pong Escobal with 55.4 seconds left—gave the Lions breathing room at 70-65, after the Knights came back from a 9-point deficit.

"We promised each other in the room not to lose anymore," added Ekwe, who played his last collegiate game since requiring for 26 points against Perpetual Help last season.

The win was San Beda's fifth in seven games, earning the Lions a tie at second with Jose Rizal University entering their last game Sunday against Mapua.

The 6-foot-6 Soria, a 15-point-and-four-rebound leader, emerged as another candidate after his second 16 points including the game-winning layup in a 68-58 squeaker over Philippine Christian University.

Gridoff P. Topao

Filipino footballers now have a 'home'

By Gridoff P. Topao

AFTER MAKING GOOD ON HIS organization's promise, four-time-consul Football Federation (Fifa) president Joseph "Sepp" Blatter now wants the Philippine Football Federation to do its "homework" in converting the development of the sport in the country.

"We are ready to help in any way, but you must also do your homework and start now," Blatter told national football leaders yesterday at the inauguration of the Philippine Football House in Bang City, which was built largely from a $400,000 aid from the Fifa Goal 10 Project.

The Swiss said the house, the third of its kind in Asia, underscores Fifa's commitment to bridge the gap between the so-called football body's developing members and its more advanced and rank-rules counterparts.

"I have always affirmed that football is a game that should be played by everyone with equal opportunity," he added.

Blatter also assured cognizant with Asian Football Confederation president Mohammad Bin Hammam of Qatar, also stressed the importance of the support from the government and the private sector in helping the sport flourish in the Philippines.

"Football transcends social, cultural, economic and political boundaries," Blatter said.

Blatter also announced his plan to undertake a special project in Mindanao aimed at "promoting national understanding among the children because football can develop discipline and tolerance."

Hermann, meanwhile, said that the Philippines was now established in AFC's "Vision Asia," a program aimed at improving team football standards.

He said AFC personnel would be running now to the country in the next few months to ensure that the standard of football becoming the second most popular sport in the country to four years moves down to reality.

Hermann thanked Blatter and Fifa for fulfilling the AFC dream of "having a home of our very own."

The PFF also launched the Philippine Premiere League in the presence of Blatter and Bin Hammam yesterday.

SCORING HIGH: United States guard Dwyane Wade soars for a dunk in a pre-Olympic exhibition game against Lithuania in Macau. The high-profile American squad defeated the Eastern European powerhouse, 120-94.

Ang, Javier start RP Olympic campaign

By Gridoff P. Topao

THE PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN IN the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing officially starts on August 9 when reverse shooters Eric Ang and archer Mark Javier begin their quests in the preliminary rounds of their respective events.

The 27-year-old ang gets going at 9 a.m. in the men's trap event at the Beijing Shooting Range. Six hours later, it will be Javier's turn as he vies in the men's ranking of the recurve event at the Beijing Olympic Green archery field.

The final round of ang's event will be held the following day, the same day silver Sheila Mae Perez and swimmer Miguel Molina take height their bids.

Perez, a veteran of the 2000 Athens Games, will compete in the women's 3-dance sporting board. Molina leads the way for the youthful RP swim team as he vies action in the men's 200-meter freestyle at 2:08 p.m. at the National Aquatics Center.

Day Three of the Games will see chess team Rizal Felicya in action in the open-round 10-mover platform, swimmers James Welch campaigning in the men's 200m butterfly and weightlifter Roldan Elias, at 17 the youngest athlete in the year's contingent, gunning for a medal in the women's 53kg class.

Top medal prospect Hany Tallaoue starts his quest in the men's light-flyweight division of boxing on Aug. 13. Also in action on that day are steelers in the men's 200m breaststroke, and teenager Clement Simms, who will vie in the women's 100m butterfly.

Molina wraps up what could be his last Olympic stint when he competes in in the 200m medley on Aug. 14 (Sea related every indoors).

On that same day, Daniel Coakley and Ryan Arabejo debut in the men's 10m freestyle and 1500m, respectively.

Henry Bagtikil competes in the men's long jump on aug. 16, before netherlands Jan Mendoza and Ian Mendoza in the 108kg on aug. 18. Long jumper Marestell Torres takes her turn on aug. 21, along with Toni Rivero, who hopes to crash the medal podium in netherlands' 60 kg division.

COAKLEY

SIMMS

MOLINA

Molina's future hinges on Beijing stint

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS—ON THE DURation of the Beijing Olympics—will chart the course of Miguel Molina's career.

"It's exciting that as my last," said Molina of his stint in Beijing, which is his second Olympic appearance. "After that I might decide to quit or stay with my life and get a job.

"I will give you a more definitive answer in the next two weeks; it all depends on how the Olympics turns out," added Molina, the 22-year-old national swimmer who has won several gold medals the past two Southeast Asian Games. He was also named the Most Outstanding Male athlete in the 2005 SEAG, held in Thailand.

Born to Filipino parents now based in Tokyo, Molina started swimming at the age of six and migrated to the United States at 17. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in the University of California, Berkeley last year.

Molina, however, doesn't discount the possibility of competing in the Asian MEAG next year.

He was named flag-bearer of the RP delegation in the Beijing Games but was replaced as the last minute by 400-meter freestyler Mariory Pacquiao.

"Mariory is a lover, and idol of many Filipinos, and it's only fitting that the country's flag is carried by somebody like him," said Molina.

For first-timers Daniel Coakley and Christyn Simms, the Olympics is a big step in their budding swim careers.

"I didn't expect to qualify, so when coach Finky (Jimenez) told me the guys going to Beijing, I had to ask, you mean the Olympics?," said Coakley, 17, grandson of swimmer Olympic bronze winner Teofilo Odchimar.

Simms, who is also from Hawaii, said seeing the qualifiers being sorry good.

"I want to place as high as I can in Beijing," she said.

"Hopefully, we could use this experience and eventually get to that first gold medal before anyone else does," added Coakley.

Coordinating Olympian JB Welch and newcomer Ryan Arabejo are also in the

five-man team team hoping to end the country's 76-year medal drought in the sport.

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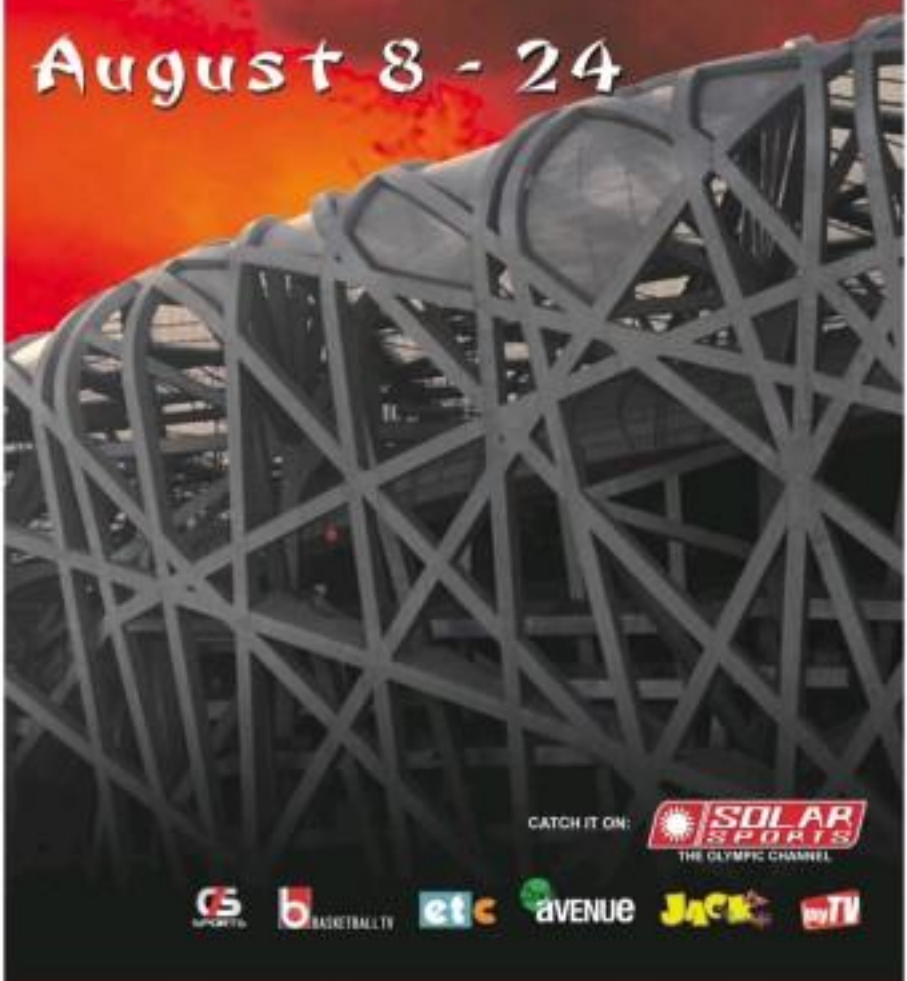

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Ex-MNC exec 'pays back' via local firm

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN HE RETIRED FROM Johnson & Johnson four years ago, Oliverlador C. Salvador Jr. was only 51 and had a lot more years left in him to propel local ventures.

Maybe blame this, to offers came from big and small, even juniors.

Salvador had the choice of working abroad or in Manila. After all, he used to be president of Johnson & Johnson-Asean, a post where he was responsible for the development, control, profitability, growth and efficient management of 20 markets.

At one point, Salvador said no to a huge local company in the beauty products business, but when he told Cecilio Pedro, the founder of Lamoiyan Corp., makers of Hapee toothpaste, that he was set to join the beauty products firm, Pedro persuaded Salvador to step on pride Lamoiyan.

At that time, Salvador said Pedro had an informal arrangement where the former executive (of a multinational company) (MNC) would work as sales and marketing consultant for Lamoiyan three days a week.

LIKLIKAN directs the goods

Although the offers of other firms were more tempting, Salvador's family decided for him.

"My wife said that Pedro is a walking testament of my want to serve the country," Salvador told the business. "Since I worked for 35 years in a multinational company, it was now time to help a Filipino company using it our latch MNCs."

Lamoiyan is the third largest player in the toothpaste market in the Philippines. The biggest are Colgate-Palmolive, makers of Colgate, and Unilever, makers of Close-up. It was not that long ago when only two brands were mentioned when one talks of toothpaste in the Philippines.

Hapee toothpaste was not taken seriously by these multinationals when it started out in 1998.

LAMOIYAN Alexander Cecilio Pedro

The people behind Hapee toothpaste only managed to create awareness when they sponsored the Philippine team to the 1988 Olympics.

The MNCs have dominated the market for decades, and no one could dispute the fact that it would take a lot of capital to loosen their stranglehold on a market where the word Colgate is synonymous to toothpaste, and Close-up was second to none.

This was the challenge that Salvador faced when he agreed to join Pedro to carve out a bigger slice of the toothpaste market for Lamoiyan.

At the start, Pedro had planned out to Salvador that Hapee was now growing. After studying the firm, Salvador saw the need to strengthen product development and marketing.

He (Sonny Jack was with him because he found out that the former research and development head of Colgate Palmolive, Jerry Bonlaris, had retired. He sought her out and she agreed to join Lamoiyan.

With Bonlaris and a newly-created marketing team, full-color sales have been increased four times over the past five years.

He cites several ingredients that contributed to the firm's success: new products, investments in advertising and plant improvements.

Among the major steps taken was advertising. In late 2006, Campaigns and Ads was tapped to handle Hapee.

Salvador says Lamoiyan came up with new toothpaste variants, like Karamee Clean which targets the young.

Also, the bright and fun variant, which claims to provide the user with fresher breath in the morning. Then there is Gumptions, Lamoiyan's answer to Colgate's Total.

But on top of the new variants, Salvador had the packaging of the toothpaste changed to make it more appealing to its retired target market.

Salvador also pursued the lower-end markets. Lamoiyan has gained tremendous strength in the toothpaste sachet market, he explains that the toothpaste market is divided between users of tubes and sachets. In the past, only 20 percent of the market used sachets. In 2006, that has grown to 35 percent and is expected to further grow as people downsize their purchases in view of rising commodity prices.

The sachet market was initially dominated by the two MNCs. This, Salvador says, despite the fact that Lamoiyan was selling its 18 mL sachets for only P2.00, while the two were selling their 10 mL for P7.

He explained that the Lamoiyan packaging was smaller than their others. But the truth was, the Hapee sachets con-

(MORE)

Manage your thinking

POET AND NOVELIST JAMES Autry said, "Your mind will give back to you exactly what you put into it." The greatest enemy of good thinking is busyness. And middle leaders are usually the busiest people in organizations.

I encouraged readers in Thinking for a Change to have a planner in hands, and I wrote about the "thinking chair" I have in my office. I don't use that chair for anything else other than to think.

I'm discovered more the book's publication that I didn't explain clearly enough how to correctly use the thinking chair. People in conferences told me that they ran to their own thinking chairs and nothing happened. I explain in them that I don't sit in that thinking chair without an agenda, just hoping that a good idea hits me.

When I actually do to think about the things I've jotted down because I couldn't think about them during a busy day. I take the list to my chair, put it in front of me and give each item my undivided attention. It needs. Sometimes I'm evaluating a decision I've already made. Sometimes I'm thinking through a decision I will have to make. Sometimes I'm developing a strategy. Other times I'm trying to be creative in thinking up an idea.

I want to encourage you to try managing your thinking in this way if you've never done it before. You will be amazed at the payoff. And know this: 1 minute > 1 hour. A minute of thinking is often more valuable than an hour of talk or unplanned work.

Create a time and place in your life for thinking.

Solution-oriented

Many people can see problems. Their chosen's support any special ability or talent. Someone who thinks in terms of solutions instead of just problems can be a difference maker. If you're not good at problem solving, resources. Ask mind-set can really get things done.

Your personality type, upbringing and personal history may affect how solution-oriented you are currently. However, you can learn to become more solution-oriented. Consider these truths that all solutions seeking people recognize:

Problems are a matter of perspective. Obstacles, setbacks and failures are simply parts of life. You can't avoid them. But that doesn't mean you have to allow them to become problems. The best thing you can do is to meet them with a solution-oriented mind-set. It's just a matter of attitude.

All problems are solvable. Some of the great problem solvers I have had as coworkers, Charles Stanley, exploited, "When I was research head of General Motors and wanted a problem solved, I'd place a table outside the meeting room with a sign, 'Solve this' Everyone stepped over it." It didn't do that. Unsolved someone reaching for his chin rubs. There isn't for on his love saying, 'Boss, you can't do it.'"

Achieving balanced all problems were solvable, and he believed to maximize that attitude in others. If you want to be solution-oriented, then you must be willing to cultivate that attitude in yourself, too.

Problems either stop us or stretch us. Problems either hurt you or help you. Depending on how you approach them, they'll stop you from succeeding or stretch you so that you are only moderate thirds, but also become a better person in the process. The choice is yours.

The problems stop or stretch you?

Written from "Maximize this Day" by John Maxwell. Publisher's Note: Maxwell, Philippines. Available at Booksource and Mandaluyong Bookstore.)

For information on John Maxwell's Leadership seminars, please e-mail us at jbrgarcia@gmail.com or call 819 2049/2732 and ask for Bing Garcia. SIR MAXWELL ON 0-40-22 (Dream) to go daily 3005 leadership insights from John Maxwell.

Where does recycled stuff go?

MADE FROM what looks like recycled newspapers

THE RECYCLING AMBASSADORS every first Friday and Saturday of each month at all SM Supermalls has become a habit for many environmentally conscious shoppers who wish to dispose of their waste items properly.

A joint project of the SM Supermalls, in cooperation with the National Solid Waste Management Commission, Philippine Business for the Environment Consulting, EPWIN QC and other governmental agencies, the events brings together shoppers and recycling companies. Shoppers bring their paper, plastic and electronic wastes which are, in turn, purchased by recyclers.

But what do recyclers do with the items that they buy?

It's amazing how these are transformed into very functional products, and how reading these have a great impact on the environment.

With the recent recycling blitzes that last Aug. 1 and 2 at all SM Supermalls, here are some Recycling 101 on how these products are researched and recycled.

Recycling paper

You'll be surprised how Trans International Paper Corp., one of the participating companies at SM's Recycling Markets that sometimes traded paper items into high grade quality recycled paper that is used for newspapers and magazines, illustrations, boards, stationery products and plastic bags.

How does this happen? The waste paper is sorted to ensure that materials unsuitable for paper making are discarded. Sorted papers are then loaded, weighed and conveyed in the High Consistency Pulper (HCP) which converts it to a fibrous cellulose mass. Chemicals are then added to remove squared brightness of pulp. After which bleached pulp is converted to quality paper at the paper machines.

The recycled paper is then rolled on a spool and transformed as the unwound stand for cutting and rewinding, after which the paper roll is transformed into customer-ordered sizes. The rolls are then sent to the roll wrapping machine for cutting, wrapping and labeling.

MOST of products like hangers, chairs, trays are made out of recycled plastic.

Recycling electronic waste

Customers who have wanted their electronic wastes will be happy to know that SM Electronic Inc., SM's recycling partners handles recovered obsolete industrial wastes in an environmentally friendly manner.

The company which is located in Cabuyao, Laguna, manages unwanted or surplus products by providing optimum recovery methods, as well as solutions on re-marketing, re-using, changing the environment. Through the EMB Group affiliates, refurbishes, resell and auction operations become viable channels for the remarketing of reusable assets like spare parts, tools, desktops and office furniture.

Recycling plastic waste

Did you notice that plastic products have identification codes consisting of arrows forming a triangular shape with a number in the middle? That code is one's key to identifying the kind of plastic, which is the first step in recycling.

Water and beverage bottles, for example, are made of PET or Polyethylene Terephthalate. Mineral grocery bags, grocery bags, food wraps are made out of LDPE or low Density Polyethylene, and take home boxes, egg cartons and CD cases are PS or Polystyrene products.

A wide range of products may be made from these plastic pellets—items but the items like buckets, chairs, trays, as well as construction materials like PVC mixed pipes, flooring and window frames. These can also be made into plant bags, CD and video cassette cases, garden furniture, fiber filling for sleeping bags and office furniture.

Recycled style

What is stored when recycling plastic? Recycling plastics conserves nonrenewable fossil fuels as plastic production, uses 8 percent of the world's oil production. It also reduces consumption of energy, reduces amounts of solid waste and pollution and reduces greenhouse of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide.

Town packs and colored magazine sheets are made into fashion items like bags and necklaces by Kilus Foundation, a multipurpose environmental cooperative. With a production capacity of 40,000 bags a month which are exported to the United States, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Korea, providing livelihood for 200 families.

Don't miss SM's Recycling Market this every first Friday and Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all SM Supermalls nationwide.

SM'S ENVIROCYCLE provides data security via educational bag drives.

Ex-MNC exec 'pays back' via local firm

From page B1

trained insert toothpaste chute when Lamalyam's competitors had to their respective packets.

To celebrate the feats, Salvador says they made welcome to which they then sold for P5. From 200 cases a month in 2004, he says sales increased to 60,000 cases a month last year and is expected to hit 100,000 this year.

He cites a feasibility study that shows their market share in value during their ad to 33 percent.

Salvador says the inches that last is very impressive. "That is the way to reach the poor."

He also cites a DepEd study that reveals how half the class children from kindergarten to Grade 3 tend to miss class due to dental problems or cavities.

Readers also showed that if children were to brush their teeth once a day for three minutes, the incidence of dental cavities would go down by 37 percent. If they were to brush their teeth twice a day the incidence would drop by half.

Salvador said the campaign is cashew are very talented. Our "it is Cavilla Pedro's assistant manager."

"He told me, you make more money in sales. For as long as we do not lose, we will continue with this."

The struggle to sing it out with MNCs is not just difficult in terms of the brand power the bigger firms enjoy, but the capital backing them up. There is al-

THE TOOTHMATE cashew machine has been growing and Hapee says their market share in this segment is going up.

so the efficiency in operations to consider. With an efficiently run operation, costs may be brought down. The MNCs set up production facilities where it is cheap, not just because of lower labor.

"We are really living humble: coming to Sumatra or China, as we did with the and some a lot, but Cavilla does not want that," Salvador points out. "We have to help provide employment."

Lamalyam is one of the few firms that employs disabled individuals. Lamalyam mostly employs deaf and mute workers. Salvador, who is used to the rigid systems of MNCs, is the first to admit that lack of communication can be a major stumbling block.

But he says Swiss's policy cannot be changed.

Today, Salvador a proud that people are now talking of shave toothpaste brands, unlike in the past where they used to only consider two.

The goal is to achieve a 25-percent market share by 2013. But Salvador is confident that the first will succeed in goal.

One of the factors that helped the firm achieve growth so fast is that it is a small company, and decision making is quicker.

"It takes 18 to 24 months for MNCs to move."

At present, the MNCs are adopting one of the worst strategies to get market share—price cuts, in contrast to the MNCs' desire, Hapee is increasing its branding, adding more items to what one gets for the price he spends it.

Salvador will always say its new wins to a price war like the competition could die, but the winner would also be scarred and several millions poorer.

Meanwhile, to counter Lamalyam has been diversifying over the past few years.

It has improved its chili making liquid called Sam. It also came out with a flavored wash. Pending which has a soaking feature. It now has a shampoo for lice called Licodic to play on lice (the lice pronounced as lay-dicks).

And today a shampoo for lice? Because, he says, 10 percent of the cause of absenteeism in public school is due to lice in the hair.

Addressing the cashew and the lice problems will help solve children's problems in school—something on vital to the progress of any country.

Salvador is happy when he is right now for says some of his friends spend their days playing golf and getting together and talking about their physical aches and pains.

His goal when he retired on April 1, 2004 was to reach and grow a business that would match the young into forest businesses and cashew people. This he was able to do with marketing former friends for under the Multiple Foundations.

Teaching and sharing his knowledge and experience was supposed to be his payback to society. Although Lamalyam was not in his initial plans, he feels he is going back more by helping a Filipino firm. In, despite the fact that he was supposed to have said goodbye to work four years ago, he remains as busy as ever.

'Find the factor that ...

From page B1-1

port standards could learn from their counterparts in the Visayas who are cut hands in the export gains.

The need for such collaborations is even more vital these days when SMEs are confronted with new challenges in a strong peso, soaring inflation, rising oil prices and ever-stiffening competition in the world market.

"But I am always optimistic and I tell the industries that there are always opportunities even with crises of some way shape or form," Sutherland said.

In a talk before the Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation, Sutherland stated the opportuni-

ties presented by the aging population in the developed countries.

"Traditional furniture may not work anymore for older people. But then they do not want cardboard furniture. They still want something with good designs," Sutherland said. "I do not see anybody catching on that market soon."

The key to success for SMEs, he said, is to find that differentiating factor that will make them stand out from the rest.

"Take if you are in the furniture industry, you do not make furniture for everybody, but for that certain market that you can focus on," he said. "There are always opportunities, no matter what the conditions are."

FEATURES IN BRIEF

From page B1-1

time on Arvine Carville Making, conducted by The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program (TESDP). The TESDP will hold a one-day seminar on how to make candles.

It will be held at the Ayuntamiento Historical at 9 Aventine Rd., Pasig. A Quezon City basis 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics to be discussed are cost-ring of materials, costing and step-by-step guidelines on how to start and maintain a business.

Participants will have hands on experience on making quality candles using different methods and techniques, such as the dipping method, pouring, molding, caving, hand forming, and carving. In addition, they will be taught how to make a milkmaid candle stick, votive candle, gel candle using pellets type paraffin wax, container in glass containers and many more.

For questions call 426-79-26, 813-65-51 or 421-31-77.

Banking on Green

In May 2007, Citi announced that it will invest $50 billion over 10 years to address global climate change through investments, financings and related activities to support the commercialization and growth of alternative energy and clean technology among the clients and markets it serves, as well as within its own businesses and operations.

The $50 billion target is a realistic estimate based on market-based activities and transactions with clients as well as energy saving, "green" projects within Citi's own operations. This target includes nearly $10 billion in activities Citi has already undertaken to address climate change to date, and is the latest example of Citi's ongoing efforts in the broader environmental arena, including investments to control its own environmental footprint, advise its clients on risks and opportunities, and policy engagement.

Citi has long been active on environmental issues, as evidenced by its initial and ongoing leadership in the development of the Equator Principles, which established best practices for assessing and mitigating social and environmental risks in project finance. Citi has also called for the development of global and U.S. frameworks that will help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, drive innovation and opportunity, bring clarity and certainty to the markets and achieve a level playing field.

"As a global leader in financial services, we recognize that we have a responsibility not only to our clients and to our employees, but also to the environment, and responding to urgent concerns including climate change," related Mark Jones, Citi Philippines' Country Business Manager.

In the Philippines, Citi has been sharing its green philosophy with clients in a number of ways - from distributing recyclable shopping bags, to reforesting watershed areas, to promoting switch to electronic statements. Its most recent effort is creating more awareness for the fragile balance of the ecology - giving clients the chance to visit the Arctic Region, either through a tour of the Northern Lights in Norway, or a visit to the Antarctic and its interesting wildlife including Polar Bears, Arctic Foxes, reindeers, pink-footed geese, breeding ivory gulls and walruses.

Aside from these ecological tours, Citi will further push its limitation to customers to Go Green by sharing how they can have a greener lifestyle - distributing energy-efficient and thus earth-friendly compact fluorescent lamps at client events and welcoming new clients with reusable bags. For more information on these Go Green activities, visit the Citi branch nearest you.

Enjoying the highest* interest rate on your Citi Time Deposit is just the tip of the iceberg.

Open a Citi Time Deposit from August 1 to October 31, 2008 and enjoy the highest* interest, plus a chance to be part of the Great Arctic Eco Tour Promotion.

Encounter the rare creatures of arctic wilderness

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Citi Recognized by the Financial Times Sustainable Banking Awards

On June 3rd, the Financial Times held the annual Sustainable Banking Awards in London. Now in their third year, the awards recognize banks and other financial institutions that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance considerations into their operations. Citi was shortlisted for both the Sustainable Deal of the Year and Sustainable Bank of the Year awards.

Citi Records Groundbreaking Achievement in Green Building

On May 29th, Citi became the first company to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) pre-certification for a retail commercial interior space through the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Portfolio Program.

Currently in pilot phase, the USGBC Portfolio Program focuses on the permanent integration of green building and operational measures - portfolio-wide - into the standard business practices of companies and organizations. The Portfolio Program recognizes market leaders who have committed to and achieved high levels of LEED certification within their portfolio.

How to Enjoy a Green Holiday* (Sourced from wwf.org.ph)

Plan your holiday carefully

- Go on holiday during the off-peak period to prevent over-straining resources - you'll also avoid the crowds.
- Find out about your destination before you go on holiday - it may be an environmentally sensitive area. Doing this will also ensure you are informed of what to see and any local customs.
- Avoid taking things on holiday that you will throw away.
- Dispose of any rubbish responsibly - it can be hazardous to wildlife.

Be responsible in your accommodation...

- Turn off lights, taps and air conditioning when you leave hotel rooms.
- Re-use towels and participate in any green schemes run by hotels.
- Dispose of sanitary waste properly (torn flush cotton buds, condoms, tampons and plastics down the toilet - or you might just find them on the beach next time you visit.
- ...and when you are out and about
- Use public transport, cycle or walk instead of using a car.
- Use facilities and rides run by local people whenever possible
- Don't participate in hunting or fishing unless it can be shown to be part of an effective management plan
- Don't be tempted to touch wildlife and disturb habitats whether on land, at the coast or under water
- Let the local people know that you appreciate pristine nature being there, so that they see its economic value
- Be careful what you choose to bring home as a holiday souvenir. Many species from coral and conch shells to sea turtles and crocodiles are endangered because they are killed for curios or souvenirs.
- Take all rubbish home from the beach - turtles are often killed by plastic bags they've mistaken for jellyfish and many items take years to degrade as well as being dangerous
- Boats and jet skis create noise and chemical pollution which is distubing to wildlife - don't keep the engine running unnecessarily
- If you are sailing, surfing or windsurfing keep a distance of at least 100m from marine mammal and bird nesting sites to avoid disturbing them

*Published with permission from WWF-Philippines

Sunday **BIZ**

'Find the factor that will make you stand out'

SME help group bids adieu leaving tons of learnings behind

THE PROJECT learns best practices, environmental management, gender sensitivity, capacity building and research on priority sectors like furniture.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ON AUG. 29, THE lights in the Makati field office of the Private Enterprise Accelerated Resource Linkages Project Phase 2 (PearlS2) will be turned off for the last time as the six-year project draws to a close.

But the valuable lessons, best practices, environmental management, gender sensitivity, capacity building and research on priority sectors such as the jewelry, footwear and furniture industries would be left behind to benefit Philippine small- and medium-scale industries.

PearlS2 Project Director Isabel Sutherland hopes that with the free access to the learning from the six years of operations in the Philippines through www.pearls2.net, more SMEs would grow and reach their full potential.

"We worked with many partners over the years and hope we will leave behind a an information portal, a gateway or like a network engine where SMEs can go to for information," Sutherland said. "It should be up and running by the middle of August."

SUTHERLAND

"We do put a lot of effort in the development of the project and when we are concerned about is that after we go, the momentum or interest will go, too," he added. "But through the website, anybody can just come in and search on what we have done in PearlS2."

PearlS2 is a private sector initiative project of the Canadian government through the Canadian International Development Agency that runs about 18 million Canadian dollars to implement.

The PearlS Project works directly with business support organizations and investment promotion centers to support the development of SMEs that create meaningful jobs for men and women.

It had three main components: Sectoral Enhancement, Partnership Development, Facility and Capacity Development of Investment Promotion.

SE is focused on supporting six of the 10 key industries identified by the Department of Trade and Industry (Department of Trade and Industry), namely, food processing, gifts, décor, natural and organic products, gifts and housewares and information technology through training, market and export enhancement and policy studies).

CDE on the other hand, is focused on strengthening the capability of IPCs to promote investment and facilitate links between Philippine SMEs and firms and groups outside the Philippines.

PDE meanwhile, is designed to take firms to a process of edge like SMEs to think offshore to promote SME development and job creation.

Sutherland said he believes strongly in the potential of the SMEs and trade organizations to help SMEs, which is why he is heartened that SMO Network Philippines Association Inc., which groups together successful clusters of trade organizations from all over the country, will live on to carry out the objectives of PearlS2.

The members are involved in furniture export, handicrafts and home furnishing, fashion décor, home goods, fashion accessories, among others.

"The collaboration among like-minded individuals can help firms succeed and grow because their ties can help businesses to improve the business," Sutherland said.

This is why PearlS2 put a lot of effort into strengthening of trade associations and raising the capability of the executive directors.

It is true from these efforts that the BIG framework worked.

Through the network, trade groups in Luzon, for instance, who are challenged to meet cu-

FIND B2

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5.0MM and up	5.000	5.000	5.125	5.500

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Maranaoans urge women to go into business

LANAO DEL SUR—"WE INVITE ALL sectors and make use of our business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit."

This was the message of the governor's wife, Radia Pimentel Adiong, Mayor Bainida B. Macabago of the municipality of Bagumbayan and Mayor Eleanor Dimaporo Lamosao of the Municipality of Pantao Ragat, at the First Ladies Night Ball, organized by Adiong, during the recent 49th Araw ng Lanao celebrations.

It was the first time in the history of Lanao that ladies were given duties and responsibilities, including the coordination of Maranao women in business and politics in an evidence of acceptance by the Islam society.

LAMTUD

"No long as our resources is to serve and alleviate people's lives, then we will glide with the current," Mayor Dimaporo Lamosao said.

The event, which coincides with the Governor's ball, focused on relevant Maranao issues specifically on trade, culture and arts, tourisms, and SMEs.

The First Ladies District based in Marawi City and focuses on peacebuilding social works, entrepreneurial and business training, assisting their husbands in resolving one to the grievances, arbitrations and feuds. "We play a different role today. We serve not just the aborigin of our husbands but we to-

some leaders of all levels also," adiong said.

"We want to encourage all Maranao women to support our campaign. God given tolerance by any of Lanao (no dimply to gained in its culture, learning excellent and natural resources," Macabago adds.

With "Maranao theme," the event showcased the Maranao cultural traditions. It was attended by businessmen, traders, political figures and the academia.

In Islam, Moslem women are not inferior to men. They rise up, become savvy and take greater place in the society. "No place or society is strong with out a woman," Gov. Bumbit is adiong said.

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Features in Brief

Advance course on wedding coordination

RIZA MEI EVENT PLANNER IS now offering a one-day seminar on "Advance Wedding Planning" on Aug. 23, 2008 in the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Geared toward event planners with some basic experience as well as those in the service and hospitality industry such as hotels, resorts, catering and recreation business, this advance seminar shall cover the assignment of doing a Chinese wedding as well as the intricacies and demands of a destination wedding.

Held in cooperation with Shangri-La Hotel Makati, Riza Mei Event Planner holds annual seminars with the aim of professionalizing the event planning industry in the country. For questions, call 8402304, 9028834 or e-mail at rizamei_events@yahoo.com.

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EVERY'S TILONE SHOPPE OFfers a course on making aroma candles.

Learn a new craft, and start a profitable home business.

Learn how to make aroma candles at home! This relaxing craft is easy and fun, you can be so proud displaying it in your home or perhaps even earning it from a profitable home business.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008 and attend the next Seminar.

READ MORE IN BANKS B6-7

IN THIS ISSUE
■ How Vicki keeps her Hayden /D1
■ Fitness meets fashion in PDI Lifestyle show /E3

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sanoy-Sanjines

Aug. 8, 2008 may not be so lucky, unlike what you think

August is Ghost Month, according to feng shui

By Norma C. Burgos

CONTRARY TO WHAT MANY believe, Aug. 8, 2008 is not an auspicious day to get married, open a business, sign a major contract, start a construction or move into a new house. The date is not favorable either for the opening of Beijing Olympics, says Joseph Chua, Mandarin Oriental Manila's feng shui expert.

"August 8, 2008 is the second day of the Ghost Festival which falls on the 15th day of the 7th lunar month, whether solar date Chinese (of the lunar month), usually the Chinese-Filipino refer to this month as the Hungry Ghost month," Chua says. "That is why the Chinese don't usually engage in any big event within this month."

The Chinese seventh month, usually August or first week of September, is called Ghost Month, and its climax is the festival of the Hungry Ghosts. Buddhists, Taoists and believers of Chinese folk religion believe that during the Ghost Month, the spirits of the dead wander the earth. There's superstition that the Ghost Month is the most inauspicious time, during which important decisions and activities such as travel, weddings, moving to a new house and even swimming are suspended.

"The Beijing Olympics and coordinators [who] reverse said promotions on Aug. 8 because on the surface they think that 08-08-08 is a lucky number. This is an ordinary day in the calendar similar to July 7, 2007 and June 6, 2006," Chua says. "But if Aug. 8, 2008 is not within the Ghost Month, it is really a lucky day. But since it falls in that month, one's luck will somewhat have a big discount."

But, to know whether a date is auspicious or not, Chua adds, one has to consider a lot of factors like celestial cycle and the Chinese calendar.

On the other hand, Antonio Aliño, feng shui expert and CEO of World of Feng Shui Boutique, says the actual day of the Ghost Festival falls on Aug. 14 or exactly 11 a.m. "Construction and builders, however, are advised to start construction before Aug. 1 and end way after Aug. 30," he says. "For the whole month of August, we need to be extra careful and avoid taking risks. For added protection, wear an amulet to deplete protective images."

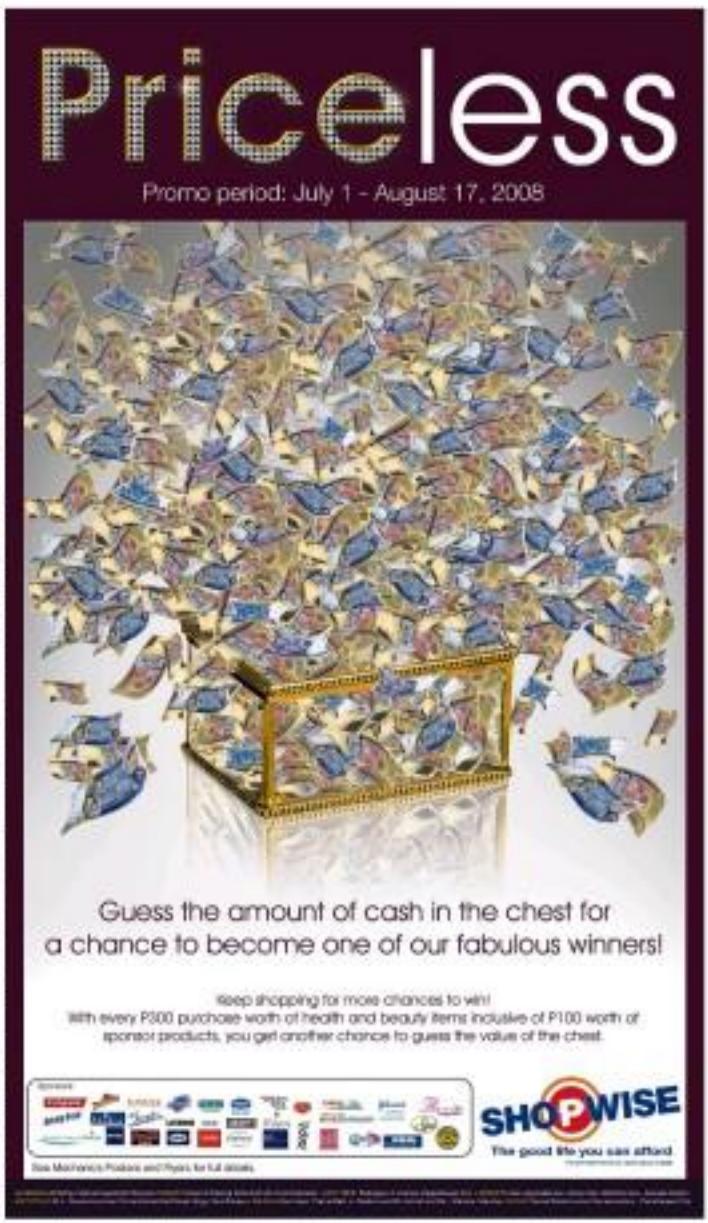
Aliño also cautions against medical procedures, swimming at night, going on late night tours, entering construction of any kind or any business, too much travel, marriages as one became a target of buying one and getting married within August.

Olympics

In Chinese culture and tradition, Aliño says, the number 8 is considered very lucky. "So it's not surprising that the Olympics starts on 8-8-08."

The opening ceremony of the Olympics in Beijing will begin at 8:08:08 p.m. CST (20:08:08 UTC).

In feng shui, we are now in the period of eight, which started February 2004 and will end February 2024. "The number 8, an ying-Yang sign and a classic symbol of luck in Europe and Asia, is the luckiest among the nine numbers (1 to 9). Its three-ring will make a spread effect to increase its potency



Dress by Bonnie Boughn
Diamond earrings from Rocks by Ana Rocha
Shot at the Gallery

Ayala Malls
NOW OPEN. GREENBELT 5
MONUMENT TO STYLE

MARITESS Aliso

Aug. 8, 2008 may not . . .

From page C1

will definitely attract extra good fortune, thus launching a worldwide event such as the Beijing Olympics was a good choice." Allen said. "The Chinese used the four Pillars of Destiny analysis to get the luck parameter for the day, 8/8/08, which is an excellently auspicious date."

(Chinese Zodiac Signs Cycle: see the attached, begun from 2004 and will end in 2023.)

If you look at the chart of the Four Pillars of Destiny, it has the presence of Chinese zodiac elements, five earth elements and one water element, Allen explains. The presence of two earth elements makes the Day Master Pillar (a yang metal) stronger, thus, making 8/8/8 "the right day for the right reasons and very auspicious for sports events, athletes and marketing campaign."

In another formula called Nian Ming Gua (auspicious directions), Allen says Aug. 8, 2008 also has the combination of 10, which brings harmony and prosperity on the day.

In China, some people have to pay a certain dough to have the number 8 in their phone numbers, addresses, car plates and so on. The number is significant for the Chinese because its pronunciation in Cantonese ("fat") means making money and sound ("ho") means prosperity.

"Technically, the number 8 is especially lucky during the Yearl Eight Cycle. And eight 8 is similar to the sound 'fa fa fa,' which means 'prosperity prosperity prosperity,'" Chan says.

"Of course, one should not only depend on luck but also perseverance and hard work. Lots of prayers will surely help," Allen says.

Aug. 8 is no-fuss day for Manila hotels

By Yanjo Baga Reyes

AS THE WORLD WORLD watches with great anticipation the opening of Beijing Olympics on Aug. 8, it will be business as usual for most hotels in Manila.

"Nothing spectacular will happen in our hotel on that day," says the public relations officer of a Makati hotel.

For the Chinese communities around the world, the number 8 is considered to be more fortunate, since in Chinese, it sounds similar to the word that signifies "prosperity." However, based on the Chinese calendar, August is a "ghost" month so there's very little activity the Chinese do this month, including planning a wedding. (See related story on page C1)

Here, the eight-8 date is like any ordinary day pr will remain to be a relatively good business day for hotels, with no usual hotel promotions.

"The rooms are not necessarily booming with guests unlike New Year's eve," says a hotel marketing executive.

Weddings

Most wedding bookings are by Filipino couples who consider Aug. 8 lucky day.

Makati Shangri-La, Manila's five-star resorts are fully booked with corporate meetings, five weddings and a ball by the Belo Medical Group. Promos include: Wedding bookings fill the calendar, but that's nothing spectacular, hotels say

Mercedes-Benz Manila to mark the Mid-season festival in Mega Pollare. Aug 8 Sept. 6 - Escape and Image festival at Angkor, ranging with Aug. 31, and Middle Eastern Bleed at Divine Event Café, Aug. 4 to 31.

The Peninsula Manila has about 80-8 percent occupancy rate with drive by weddings - none Chinese. Promos include the Lucky 888 Package, which is a three-day/two-night stay at the Peninsula Suite with complimentary round-trip transfers in a Mercedes Benz E-Class limousine from home, a bottle of Krug Grande Cuvée Champagne, extra session for cars at Ralphe's, eight-course Old Manila dinner for two, eight-a souvenir keepsakes for two each-evening, eight-gymnazine 10kg worth P88,000 for her from Jol & Bravo Jewellers, eight-bottle Moet Chandon Brut Imperial, eight-hour shopping spree worth P88,000 for him at Greenbelt 5 and select hotel privileges worth P888,000.

Ha weddings on Aug. 8 for the grandiose Oriental Manila, but is fully booked for corporate events and meetings.

Sofitel Centennial Manila is fully booked for corporate events and weddings.

Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila has three weddings. Promo includes Ge Tian Si, a Sichuan food festival ongoing until Aug. 31.

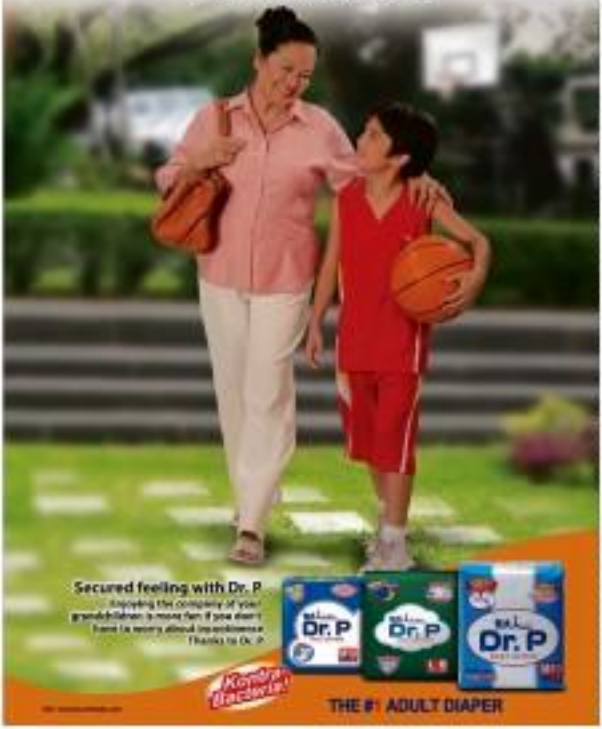
Dusit Thani Manila and Heritage Hotel Manila have each two weddings, including corporate events. Dusit's Pacita San Miguel has a live coverage of the Beijing Olympics from Aug. 8 to 24.

Richmonde Hotel is booked for corporate meetings and an intimate Filipino wedding.

Century Park Hotel has three weddings for brunch, dinner and cocktail/ reception. Promos include a flat release of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics at Astoria Lounge and a food special at Century Tower Restaurant Aug. 31.

There are six Filipinos wedding at the Shangri-La, while three at Diamond Hotel. Both are booked for corporate programs.

Peninsula Manila has one big ballroom for a wedding, and two small ones at its property. Promo includes a raffle at Lai-rade, which marks its first anniversary on Aug. 8.



GOINGS ON

60,000 runners join national marathon today

JOIN THE SWEATSHOP of the 23rd National Milo Marathon today in Manila, Cebu, Davao and Tarlac. A first in Philippine and world marathon history, over 60,000 runners are expected to join.

The marathon will have three events: 2K kiddie run, 5K fun run, 10K run (Metro Manila only), 21K half marathon for the provincial elimination races and 42.195K open/elite/Manila elimination race and a #1 1904 Host race. The 23rd National Milo Marathon is in partnership with Bayanan Park Hotel Manila, Adidas and the Department of Tourism.

Floral arrangement workshop

With the success of Colors of Canada last year in Santa City, Asian Floral Sundries will bring back Mark Pumpling to the Philippines to do a flower arrangement demonstration and workshop entitled Floral Dance. The demonstration-workshop will be held Aug. 14 at the Quezon City Hall of the Philippine Columbian Association in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. Mark Pumpling is a multi-awarded professional floral designer based in Queensland, Australia.

In relation to this event, Asian Floral Sundries will be having its 4th Amateur Floral Arrangement Competition on Aug. 16 at the Philippine Columbian Association.

As for the amateur competition, there will be 4 to be categories: bouquet, table arrangement and corsage package. The competition is open to all amateur florists who have never placed in any flower arranging competition in the past.

The events will be co-sponsored by Kings Country Flowers and Plants, Agrochem Philippine Inc., Bevers Flowerstop, Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants and Supplies.

Creative writing tilt

Direct Learning Systems opens this year's search for young creative writers entitled "Wonderful." The contest is open to grade school and high school students.

All entries should be submitted on or before Aug. 15 to Direct Learning Systems, 4/F, Sedco 1 Bldg., 120 Thailand cor. Legaspi Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati. Entries may be submitted to wordwonderful@ymail.com. For details and contact particulars, visit www.dlsea.ph.

Food catering seminar

The Food Caterers Association of the Philippines will present Managing Cost and Maximizing Profit on Aug. 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hotel Celeste Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Topics include running a profitable business; keeping costs within budget to attain profit; tracking down, controlling losses; evaluating and pricing menu; design salable profitable, packages and examining their salability; sustaining food safety and quality service. These will be given by the country's top consultants and executives in the country's food preparation and service industry. Call 4102204/3714838 or e-mail info@fcap.com.ph.

Gawad Tanbuli

Direct Learning Systems Inc. invites grade school and high school students who subscribe to the Scholastic Entertainment Multifolk Kalukasan and Tanbuhay to join this year's creative writing search entitled Gawad Tanbuli. Theme is International Year of the Planet. Contestants will write a poem or short story in Filipino about their contribution to taking care of our planet.

All entries should be submitted on or before Aug. 15 to Direct Learning Systems, 4/f, Sedco 1 Bldg., 120 Thailand cor. Legaspi Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati. Or e-mail gawadtanbuli@ymail.com. For contest details, call 8923031 or visit www.dlsea.ph.

Starmall events

Spend time with your favorite celebrities in mall tours happening every Sunday, 4 p.m. at the central lobby of Starmall Edsa. Set up close with Sabrina Ballesteros, Kenyo, Aug. 10; Elvis and BB, Aug. 17; and Rita Bernal, Aug. 24.

Join Vince of a Star sessions every Thursday of the month. Apart from this, Cebu Libre Bar and Restaurant is looking for a band that would entertain the patrons as they dine and listen to music. Auditions are held 9 p.m. at the bar. Contact Ana Lingan-Ng/Wes on Aug. 19, also free livelihood courses: Variety of Donuts and Blechs, Aug. 9; Spicy Oils, Garlic Peanut and Peanut Brittle Making, Aug. 23; Pasta, at Rs 575 w/50% discount. Call 7344880.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

IN THIS ISSUE

Aug. 8 is no-fuss day for Manila hotels /D4

How Vicki keeps her Hayden

EVEN GIVEN THE lethargy-inducing, gloomy weather last Thursday (more, your eyes would pop out of their sockets at the sight of Dr. Vicki Belo's cleanup at Mi Piace, Peninsula. She were strolling down to lunch with the celebrity doctor who was dressed in a pin-strapped tank top whose neckline was on a precipitous plunge. As the whole world knows, Dr. Belo has the body to die for (some indeed do die in pursuit of that body). That lunch it because obvious that apart from that, she also has a man to kill for (?).

The whole world knows the high-profile romance of Dr. Belo, 52, with a good-looking doctor (then several years her junior) Dr. Hayden Kho (only 38 at last check date Thursday he was her "new candy" quite literally—they had their arms around each other so often that a passer-by might have thought they were lovers). Or maybe not. Maybe they were just friends. Maybe

THE COUPLE WITH THE PRINCIPAL SPONSORS: 1st row: Elizabeth Sy, Mary Chu, Rose Ong, Cel Chuan, Maribel Wijaren, the couple, Javier Valdez, Joseph Guiseco, Domingo Garcia, Domingo Chu and Rubes Jacallano. 2nd row: Susan Go, Merdi Uy, Teresita Ignacio, Rose Garcia, Anita Lim, Concepcion Lagda, Ruby Herrera, Benson Chuky, Edward Chu, Cee Lagda, Santiago Tandian Jr., Henry Uy, Mario Ong and Wilbe Lagda

CINDY Rungchid, Caroline Tan, Cathy Ching, Poly Antigua and Rose Chuky

PAGODA. Inspired fondant wedding cake made by JBW

LUGTU-DY NUPTIALS

Long-distance lovers in altar date

LOVE'S Howard and Sally Muyco in Lugtu

THERE ARE WEDDINGS and there are weddings but this one is one for the book, dahlings.

They were introduced to each other four long years ago during a grand convention in Manila. Unbelievably they fell in love.

Theirs blossomed into a long-distance love affair. Sally Muyco-Ty lived in Cebu and Leslie was a Manila boy. It wasn't easy for both, but they carried on, through phone calls, e-mails and frequent plane trips to and from Cebu and Manila.

The bride is the daughter of engineer Peter Ty and Sally Ty while the groom is the son of engineer Raul Lugtu and socialite Ching Lugtu, pedrogan.

The partying started three fun-filled days before the wedding, pedrogan. Being a long weekend, the couple's Jesualle-created client guests to sampaw-on dinner parties and a cultural fete of the Queen City of the South.

On the big day, the ceremony was officiated by Fr. Leo Penaredondo at the

FLOWER GIRLS: Alexis Bolilia, Ariana dela Cruz and Elyza Gonzalez

THE COUPLE WITH THE SECONDARY SPONSORS: Czarina Domingo, Jennifer Dy, Sheila Palmares, Sally and Leslie Howard, Carli Garcia, Matthew Domingo and Arthur Dy

superbly decorated Sacred Heart Church. The radiant bride looked regal in her ever elegant wedding gown by her favorite couturier Ronald Villarama. She was escorted to the altar by her proud father. The wedding entourage all wore ethnic blue with sinamay accents.

RING & COIN BEARER: Jonathon Arthur Dy and Cydric Dy

Grand reception

The lovebirds moved on to the reception at the Grand Majestic Convention Center, Basacdacal Barrio Pasay Ouang, of Pink Floyd, escorted the wildest chorus for the reception as requested by the couple. The night started with the offering of the colorful Pagoda cake, done by Jill Ty. Guests enjoyed the sumptuous nine-course meal! We like, pulong-pulong!

There was a dimple program after which the couple had their first dance. They danced to Michael Bolton's "Save the Last Dance with Me."

An already, the wedding got on a roll, with the lovebirds hitting the dance floor till way past Cinderella's bed time.

To show their appreciation to their guests, the couple raffled off several nine-like phones and gave each guest colorful heart-shaped mother of pearl stands as souvenirs.

But that didn't end there, dahlings. The frippery surprise was when Leslie got on stage and sang with all his heart for both a Chinese love song, "You Raise Me Mine to Me." A week later Sally and Leslie Lugtu joined off for a romantic honeymoon in several glorious European cities.

Now, didn't we say this was easy-to-care for book? The love book? Cheers, pedrogan.

THE COUPLE with Kathy Dy, Jessica Lua and Cindy Sungalot

THE SURVIVOR GROUP. The couple, Rose Chuky, Peter Dy, Brent Lim, Steve Chuban, David Ogulan, Vic Cajes and Paul Dy

Live, love, learn and leave a legacy

By Ignert Adriosis Villarba

CELEBS and Rose Villarba: 60 years of enduring partnership

SHARING SEVERAL OF LIFE, love and learning as a family and community through increasing times is an auspicious occasion for celebrants Cesar "Boy" Villarba and Florida "Rose" Collantes to take their enduring partnership to the next level: Leaving a legacy.

Also 12 children, their 12 spouses, 44 grandchildren (including 3 partners) and 5 great grandchildren, Boy Boy and Rosay Rose has built a community rooted in Lucena City, Quezon, dispersed throughout the world as executives, engineers and overseas workers.

On July 5, 70 household members (remarkable for starting from one set of parents) came home to pay tribute to their Tatay and Inanay's 60 years of enduring love and to decades as teachers.

Each child and friend was Carmelo Dear Items from Isla Azul, Caribbean to co-celebrate his and wife Maribel's silver anniversary.

In their wedding book, the double celebrants literally marched down the aisles from the family's residence on the altar of Mt. Carmel of St. Joseph Church of the Carmelite Nuns for their anniversary Mass concelebrated by inaugural family friends bishops Teodoro F. Marquez and Rolen T. Pantoja.

In fulfillment of their parents' legacy, the family commissioned a book entitled "Life and Love in a Learning City: The Villarba Clan of Lucena City," culled from the patriarch's essays on education and historical vignettes in celebration of the theme Dakuth Stephen Covey says is what we all want: To love. To live. To learn. To leave a legacy.

In the book, second child Cielo Villar Ilo de la Torre, a social psychologist, recalls "intimacy and commitment are at the core of true parental love. We are there making up early at 4 a.m. and prepping her 6 a.m. Mass. Both go to work at 7 a.m. After my mother recovered from a stroke in 2003, she still accompanied my father to Rizal's University where he has been teaching for 60 years."

Lifelong loving

Rosay Cesar Boy saw his future wife when she was only 14, studying in Tayabas high school.

He was then selling bilingual and found Rosay very beautiful.

When war broke out, Nene had to hide in Tagbilaran hills with her parents Modesto and Beatriz Collantes to escape the Japanese soldiers.

While a college junior in UP Los Baños, Cesar was recruited and commissioned in the US ASAFE as 2nd lieutenant serving and surviving Guam.

During liberation, he was tasked to defend the town from Pagdilao resistance.

As a guerilla treasurer, he led his unit in conducting enemy surveillance and reconnaissance in the Tagbakin hills. There Cesar saw Rosay again.

After the war, Cesar resumed and married Nene on May 6, 1949 in simple rites with only his 90-peso salary to spend. Nene had been orphaned by the war and Cesar became her only family. Cesar and Nene nursed dreams of raising a big gov family. (a genome of the pena-nene family record).

Cesar and Nene's journey of 60 years continues as the next generation.

Character profile

In summary of the clan's collaborated profile in the days that the 6 educators, 7 entrepreneurs, a doctor, 2 nurses, 4 engineers, a government auditor, 8 armed forces/coast guard officers, one commissioner/lawyer, one hospital administrator, 4 in management/finance, and 39 students in the three levels (including one summa cum laude graduate from the University of Arizona.)

There are enough talents

LESSONS of love and learning in a book

to the Queen of Tay in the house of Cesar and Rosay in Old a book that I am content with living an awestruck daughter-in-law. Leo only child like my mother-in-law) holding the distinction of being Rosa to marry into their good genes.

O CHILDREN. 12 spouses, 44 grandchildren (including 3 partners), and 5 great grandchildren make up the house of Cesar and Rosa.

Young widow comes to grips with hubby's death

By Sunny Hilarious Reyes
Contributor

AUTHOR with husband

OF ALL THE SECULAR words I've heard or read about on life and death, the closest one in spirit to the unutterances of feelings I've lived on in the past year were words written by Gilda Cordero Fernando in an essay she wrote for this section on July 27, 2008.

Writing about old age and the purpose of growing old, she shared her own learned experience on the purpose of life which had been succinctly expressed to her by a friend (Bernie Bitpinionicus, whom I've met once), which is that God put us on earth for only one purpose—to love.

And, in essence, that such life is an individual journey and an individual responsibility, with the immortal spirit making effective use of the mortal physicality it possesses to learn and express this love throughout its life's multifaceted, ambivalent moments.

Divine words

Since the death of my husband Joey last year, I've survived and lived mostly on words of divine origin (at least, in the Bible, in the sermons of priests, or the non-fictional, in spiritual readings, my beloved Tommy and Bo's (which prayer of Thomas Merton), as well as the remaining threads of my multicolored highly detailed dreams.

The only secular words that would reach me, in some way, were a few meaningful songs I'd usually only hear now and then. I say "hear now" because my battered heart, ruined and split every yes was fragile to sing.

Like many Filipinos who have accepted the death of their beloved (especially under circumstances as "final play" dreamstealers), I have often been asked how we could be so calm and "strong" in the face of such personal devastation.

I don't quite remember what I'd answer on most occasions, although it's highly likely that I might have uttered a few heartfelt words on the inevitability of death and our hopeful return to God's embrace. And, despite my outward demeanor, I was also operating mostly half-dazed at the time (and so volatile, perhaps, to satisfy the curiosity of those who'd asked—some in an unexpressed manner, as if they secretly thought it would have been more "natural" or "better" for me to lose my head for a time).

But, the truth of the matter is that through the divine fog of unbelievable pain there is a great love. The emotionally and strong light of God's love for Joey and me. And how He alone knew that I would need all the wits and senses about me—in order for me to survive what I can only inadequately describe as losing my heart and spirit seemingly ripped out of my body, three having it shred into ragged pieces, bleeding to death but which death would not take... and here, after a spell of pained silences catching my breath, the whole cycle would begin again at bits and pieces of the reality of my loss (and how I would once again rewind and replay.

> Joey's death has given me 'new' eyes with which to see the world and my life in a different way

Hope in a child

God knew what my heavy spirit needed to have, essentially, in this world, in order for me to live through, Joey's indescribable death. I hope, theatrical, physical hope which bore its gift of me with, to perfect him, in the little 7-week old baby whose heart beat within my womb: A child who would be the one immortality of the love that Joey and I had shared in five and a half years of marriage. My very first pregnancy, no miracle baby.

This gift, coupled with the love that I came from every tough road (having amazing parents who taught us how to be the examples of their love, how to never give up, how to work/live with integrity, and how to believe and hold onto real faith no matter life's odds), is what pulled me through my life's darkest nights.

The "little" candle that was in it the corner of darkness. Joey's death had given me "new" eyes with which to see the world and my life in a different way.

I'm just a small person in a world of billions, but I know that God sees me, hears me. He is all.

God says "allowed" (yes, it doesn't, to outshine giving and exciting peace and further— as has dawned everyone helped back a damaged shadow and a 60+ year-old human me again, a perfect fit basic dream, the Eye Bank told me.

In many answered prayers. Proverbs (one personally reserved on a poignant date here. A little insistence song on the radio there. A call from a sister or a friend when I needed it most. Serenity and generosity.

Tightrope

My burgeoning pregnancy restored to equanimity my spirit's inert struggles—as I walked the tightrope between despair and happiness. For as my baby grew, so did an unseen, pouring oneness. But the unwounded images of my chilling child eventually stanch the spark of life and hope I'd cherished so tightly to my heart's gone into a great bonfire. My brain now the triumph of an struggles on me. It's of this year when my darling Raphaella was born two-nine world. (The very same was received and dissected immediately after.)

Earlier this month, we commemorated Joey's first death anniversary. It fell on a Friday—that coincidental, after some reflection, as God's assurance for me to be at peace for we has taken Joey home to Heaven, established in His Sacred Heart.

As for us, I don't "move on" (a God every bad another message waiting for me that day. During the speculation, Fr. Dave Concepción, mentioned (as was his custom) the saint of the day—Saint Elizabeth of Poland. In 2006 when we'd moved to Makati, Father Dave had led our house blessing and he had mentioned there that it was the feast day of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

When I quietly mentioned this fact to Father Dave as we made our way to Joey's crypt for the blessing after mass, he excitedly exclaimed that both Elizabeths were related.

I would have to be really simple-minded not to "get" it that time!

By the way, the "souvenir" (Pinoy habit, do I?) I was inspired to prepare was a CD compilation of selected songs from Joey's personal music collection. The music never really ends (A.K.A. no-one-dies. Life is eternal. Love is the answer as to many questions. Let go and let God.

And, as I've written before in "Little Book of Miracles & Answered Prayers": "This is more than the end of love story. This is part of my personal love story with God."

And so, through death and "new" life again, my love story continues. (you begin) here.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a check of the bridal gown. E-mail to the Inquirer, PO Box 1203 Makati Central Post Office 1261 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required of the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in accord to the senders.

NIEDOG-BRABANTE

Ellen Niedog, son of Ernesto and Lorena Niedog, will wed Lizelle Brabante, daughter of Domingo (deceased) and Sisa Ellen Brabante, in Chihuahua then on Aug. 2 in the Blue Gardens, Commonwealth, QC.

Ellen Plowden designed the bride's gown in ivory silk chiffon. It has an empire-cut, ruched bodice with halter sleeves of re-embroidered lace studded with embellished swirls, ravine beads, iridescent paillettes and seed pearls. A double-width veil of illusion tulle held by Bandelasqued Swarovski crystal pins completes the ensemble.

SILIT-FRED

Hector V. Silit, son of Bernard and Gordana Silit, will wed Ramesh Lee L. Red, daughter of Rodolfo and Fenarylin Red on Aug. 10 at the Sanctuario de San Jose in San Gerardville, Mandaluyong City Reception will follow at The Conservatory. The Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City. Ronnie Ramolete, Aloe Bl. Sonnet of Events Plus will coordinate the event. The bride's gown was designed by Amadeo Lim.

ANNER-JAVIER

Bernie Michael Anner, son of William and Melodina Anner will wed Maria Clarissima Onate Javier, daughter of Lucito Javier and Ma. Isabelle Ayuso on Aug. 9, at Santuario Infanta del Pilar (Nino Cathedral) in Irian, Cavite. Reception will be held at Dasmi's Nuevo del Sol in Kawit, Cavite.

FERNANDEZ-HOAB

Arnel F. Fernandez, son of Consul General Armando B. Fernandez Jr. and Carmelita Ferreria (deceased) will wed Nadia Hoab, daughter of Eduardo and Aurora Hoab on Aug. 16 at Santa Francisca d'Assisi Chapel in Greenwood Commons, Santolan Subdivision, Project 6, QC. Reception will immediately follow at The Courtyard in Greenwood Gardens, Quezon City. Events Specialist Mon M. Santos of Kirsten Plus will coordinate the modern romantic-themed event. The bride will wear a tailored, princess-cut gown made of white subadar silk with richly beaded top made of Swarovski crystals and Japan cut beads, and an embellished tiered mantilla skirt cascading in a low sweep of chapel train designed by Ariel Sosa. Her soft, beaded, double-circle illusion tulle veil to be held in place by Swarovski crystal pins.

PARREÑAS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Pabergan Parreñas Jr. celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at Hidesaki Park in Long Beach, California. They are former faculty members of Kinetic High School and they now reside in Lakewood, California.

An inspiring book for parents

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Rubio-Gutierrez

AFTER A BRIEF HOSPITAL CONfinement last weekend, my daughter and I came out of the hospital, exhausted but thankful.

Our family had weathered another storm and we had become all stronger because of it.

When we arrived home, the book "Mom's A Homemaker" was waiting in my work desk. Written by Angelica Ramos Vicente, former vice-president of the Philippine Racing Steward Corporation and now wife, mother, teacher and contributor, she took a small name of mine. One we retain to inspire and roam the heart of every parent—wise or old.

The premise of the book is that a mother's work is never done or in the ordinary couch "why there is no vacation from your vocation." Angel relates her everyday experiences in a manner in a simple manner that every parent can relate to. Woven into each story is the way to wholehood has evolved in her life and then that husband and family's.

In the story "Bravery Extended and the Deep Red Sea," Angel talks about their family's experience when her then seven-year-old was afflicted with Kawasaki disease, the chronic fever known that her family had learned how she experience which she says they overcame in by thankful for up to this very day. Having just come from a hospital confinement with an ill child, I could very well relate to her insights and thought it would be good to share them with you here.

Lessons

Lesson Number One. Even in difficult times, we will always find things to be thankful for, enough material resources, be good medical care and awareness doctors who not only give their time and skill but who also strengthen us spiritually. It is true that even when a situation is not welcome, some good will result from it. It's always very difficult to have a sick child, and becomes even more challenging when there is not one with us spouse to depend on.

Lesson Number Two. Difficult times lead us to pray more and we lean other people in prayer too, shaped into the close and remember how many times she joined friends regarding she's condition and asked them to continue praying. Sometimes, I think that more than diagnosis or really get all those different people, in different places, under different circumstances, to pray."

Lesson Number Three. When front road, para ke God. Angel says that during two or three occasions during their stay at the hospital she was so exhausted from nursing he drugs to get home. "Tired, been seemingly unanswered prayers, but in all these cases, I was basically forced to just cry, 'Behold—Ex ne.'" It was letting go and letting God take care of things. And every time she did so, things always improved. "It was as if God was watching me to just rely on Him. For a control freak like me, it is difficult not to know what to do or when to expect. But during those days, I did realize that I was not in control. We are in. That is solely God's area."

Trying times

Like to say that as a mom, or as a person, we are often running on the power about. The last couple of weeks were pretty trying times for me as a parent with a husband based overseas. Those were times to deal with both how and where the husband is currently based. Add to that problems with household help and a sick child to a hospital. As I wrote this, both had undergone prior to their of how both given prepared for up during the most difficult and trying times. If there is one lesson I have learned time and time again, as a parent, and a wife, it is that His timing is always perfect and His provisions are always sufficient in His most tailored ways.

In the same story, Angel talks about a book entitled "The Red Sea Rules" by Robert J. Morgan. She says that she book kept her courage and strengthened her throughout the entire stay in the hospital. "My neighbor that Emmanuel episode, I realized, he it said on the book I read that "the same God Who led you in will lead you out. "That is, if you believe.

As parents, we all have our own thing times, and when our go through those times, we only need to pray "Lord, you thoughts not to this. I trust and I know that you will see me through this as well," and believe me, He really does.

"My Mom's A Homemaker" is available at mainstreet Bookstore and Power books.

E-mail the author at cathy-babes@gmail.com

J700

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SAMSUNG

She can't forget the boyfriend who dumped her

DEAR EMILY,

I've always been fascinated at how you answer your letter-senders. I pity them as I imagine their felt, well, yes, enlightened—but also stupid as you make their problems sound stupid. Gone I'm actually sending one of my own, but for a change, I guess it would help if I try to laugh at myself.

My ex-friend and I were together for almost seven years. A month shortly after ending my second relationship for the wedding, he got cold feet and said he needed time and space away from me. He said he's got issues and that he's the problem. I thought I'd go crazy but I was really caught off guard. I endured having to answer people who asked, "So when's the wedding?" or "How's your bf?"

EMELY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

All my friends were telling me that he's probably just unaware else that's why he ditched me. I believed him when he said there's no one. But still he said he doesn't want to get back together "yet" because "he's happy now that he can do anything he wishes to do." He complained before that I got too clingy and that he was feeling "choked."

Then here because he are the rules when we were starting out. I was the type who loved going out with friends for drinks, tea, mapped out then doing those. He was clinical what I should or can wear and wanted my Saturdays spent only with him.

He didn't have many friends then. But when he got a new job and made new friends, he started being with them and complained about me being clingy when he didn't make time for our anniversary.

I feel an injustice was done to me, but I can't get angry enough to admit that I don't want him back anymore. They say it's the reason why he's holding off because he knows he can get me back anytime he wants. I just can't believe he's forgotten how deep our relationship was going. Can he really not have an attachment? Is it crazy to have unrequited yet still have hope?

BITTER

Shouldn't you be screaming "Say hi to Jesus" "Are the stars is good if on your life? No, never mind it nothing to smile in, but he dumped you, climbed you and you're still playing them a minute in your mind when he had already followed Elvis and left the building—so enough already! Sorry, but by you're not going to get him back and bring him to his knees. That's one gift of love you should be thoroughly thankful for.

Of course you will have momentary ache of pain and occasional discussion of friends to have he could to easily access—all which have been my own, too. When some men have a code worship that seems to have been going on for one, many of them are able to switch off their minds and leave completely with one's a succession of conquests. Once they get your surrender, they move on without shame or consequence. Or worse, they're married here. That's just how they are and the heartbreaks more as you and move on the pain all it's gone.

What you're doing is right. Get over by becoming more beautiful than when he has one you. Go out with friends and learn the words, only more. And while you're at it, buy all the clothes in whatever shape, size or form you now wish them to be—without a helmet power by your neck dressing the closet to you. Leave one lucky unencumbered single woman again. Enjoy it!

If read the author at send tobe@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Ghosted, or send your letters to Beatbit, Inq.to or www.facebook.com/emily.marcelo. Also the program "Kabisaan ng Buhay," 7-10:45:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzBB (594.5 BBC).

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For my date with the mysterious Banker, I chose a smashing Tiger Woods-ed gown by Rajo Laurel

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Dealing my way through 'Deal or No Deal'

PAALI? Gambino, Fifth Tenorio, Harding Gambino and Pajarito Gambino with healing priest Fr. Gerard Donoso

HELLO! Ray-mopito Harding and Julie Gambino

"DEAL or No Deal" friends Laiza Zurga, Joe Cruz, Karen Pascual, Aimee Barrameda, Raul Manicano, Rajo Laurel carrying Aurora Valdez, Angelette Cabrera, Annalisa Valdez, Sea Princess Gambino, Leah Pagan and Ella Blanco

Dealing my way through 'Deal or No Deal'

It can page E1

called Bendaya ni Ramon. The episode airs this coming week, so do catch it and see how lucky I was.

Golf fundraiser

One novel lesson when luck arrives. I was playing golf with roaming buddy Mads Gambino when an errant golf ball landed near us. And who should come up looking for the wayward ball but hosting champion Manny Pacquiao. As luck would have it, my camera was in my bag, and

My next golf game will be at a fundraising golf tournament of Fr. Gerard Donoso on Aug. 13 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club, South Course. At his Divine Healing Learning Center, Fr. Gerard has 214 students from selected poor families in Sorsogon City, his Healing Services Association also funds a housing program and livelihood skills training for unemployable single moms.

Fr. Gerard tells me the stingers are off at 9:30 a.m., so there's a slight chance I might miss the first hole or two. Tickets are at P3,500 inclusive of green fees, give-aways and lunch. Lots of golfers are still needed, so sign-up pronto!

Call 7273909, 09175302033 or 0918-9008821. E-mail healingservices@gmail.com.

Do you want to be lucky? If yes, then give some luck back. Fees and help can fit Gerard and his kids.

Celebrity poker

With luck, what goes around comes around. As part of my fundraising efforts for the Manuel Bamba Red Cross, I've organized several events, one of which will test everyone's luck.

Our Celebrity Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament will be at the Metro Club, Mandaluyong Commercial Center, Ortigas on Aug. 9. The Queen of Poetry Entertainment will start at 5 p.m. with a Celebrity Round at 6 p.m. It's all for fun and charity with prizes and giveaways for everyone. Even the non-poker players get outstanding

For the dark players at the table, more rebate points, more tourney packages, mobile phones, TVs, appliances and even betting chips from Bigstar at stake. But since I'm the organizer and I always outplay with the lames, all the early waiters will have big prizes as well.

Winners will receive the final round for a house sit-in to promote this new event, which, a really a game of skill more than it is a game of chance. The Metro Card Clubs already one of the best poker rooms in town, and will have another reason to support the charity players.

Call 8905-2545368 or text 0947-5285811; e-mail celebritypoker@yahoo.

BEAUTIFUL dancing room in ABS-CBN

BOXING champ Manny Pacquiao with Sea Princess and Malo Gambino at Manila Golf

ARTSY Mandi-Ivan Alcuaz, Sea Princess and Hermie Ventura

CONTEMPORARY aride from Bianca rests in my dining room setup in Ramon's

ANSWER TO JUNIOR CROSSWORD

OBBIE Obias, Citi vice president for cards business process innovation, Northwest Airlines manager for finance, human resources and legal, and Philippine Cards, Continental Airlines marketing communications manager

RIO Magsaysay, Citi vice president for cards marketing; Noel Chandrasekhi, Thai Airways general manager and Malu Ortiz-Luis-Beaton, Thai Airways Beacon sales manager

SABRINA Aragon, P&G assistant vice president for marketing products; Felix Cruz, P&G vice president for marketing support; and Ria Corrine Domingo, P&G manager for prepaid development and communications

"KAPAMILYA Deal or No Deal" Jolli Girls

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SABRINA Aragon, P&G assistant vice president for marketing products; Felix Cruz, P&G vice president for marketing support; and Ria Corrine Domingo, P&G manager for prepaid development and communications

"KAPAMILYA Deal or No Deal" Jolli Girls

SPECTACULAR Hide Resort in Palawan

TYRONE Nobles enjoys the fine sands at Discovery Shores Boracay

DISCOVERY Shores in the blue twilight

MONIQUE Villones, Myrza Sison, Jeanne Rae Ramirez and Philip Co-Quijano

HANK Jones, Citi Phils. country business manager; Bee Tan, Citi Cards business development and Tourism Tarlac chairs; Citi Strategic Partnerships and Alliances Regional Cards global consumer group director

Airways Royal Orchid Plus and Northwest Airlines' WorldPerks.

Also, it offers cardholders the chance to earn free miles for all spending in a partner star of 1 mile for every P65.

Citi Country business manager Hank Jones talked about the exciting set-up, which has a double miles promo this August. Air tickets are purchased with Citi Personal Miles also enjoy travel insurance. Plus, there's enough to convince me to get this new card.

So, just how lucky am you? I'll leave everyone with a pleasant Sunday thought, one I got from Randy Pausch, a recently deceased YouTube star with 6.5 million hits. "We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand."

E-mail the author at sopetcruz@inquirer.com.ph.

INQUIRER president Sandy Hernandez, Inquirer VP for advertising Pepito Chiu Jr and Samsung Phils. Chief country director Pon Bagus

RUBY Star, fashion director and Inquirer columnist Richard JP Bolilan

LIGHTLIGHTS Fe Varilla, Joey Sarcena and Ferdinand Dee

TWOSOME Cesare, Randy Ortiz and Apples Morris-Southerst

TOGA Princia Hidden, Lulu Tan-Gan and Vic's Eric Albert

INQUIRER LIFESTYLE SERIES

Style statement: Sporty

HSBC marketing head Chris Rourke, Paolo Abrera, Rhett Fule and Phoenix Barcelo

INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto, Rina Go, James Reyes, Sen. Pia Cayetano and Ignacio Phils. president Chandru Melwani

WASHINGTON Sprin. Sandy Kominsky and Aileen Llorejos

FASHION BECOMES LESS A SPECTATOR sport when sport itself becomes the fashion.

Last Thursday, tycoon Lifestyle staged the evening, filled on the bleachers despite the heavy rain and flooding) curtain-raiser to its Lifestyle Series of events with "Runway Fashion," a catwalk-cum-up-brewers event of the country's top designers and best-selling activewear brands, at the Rajadao Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila in Makati City.

Co-presented with Samsung, a show-goer who can across the fields of fashion, fashion and commerce, arts, media and entertainment, this is the support of HSBC and Penhalaris, the show had 12 couple-of-so designers rambling their creations with the latest brand collections: Kipling with Vic Rocha, Fila with Lulu Tan-Gan, Nike Golf with Anchorer Hotels, Speedo with Louis Caparelo, Adidas with Patricia Ramos-Diaz and Jhen Sala, Marks & Spencer with Jerry Gamela, Aigle and Oakson with Raja Laurel, Bench with Joey

STYLE 04

KIPLING'S Chingoy Gallardo, Abbie Thompson, Vic Rocha, Amanda Carpio and Cory Rufino

INQUIRER'S BPM for marketing Jose Lobrado, Louis Caparelo, Luca Carpio and Samsung's Jerry Lacson

EDGE Ayenid and Nicole Gingrich

INQUIRER SVP for sales and marketing Rose Reinoso, Susana Gonzalez and Anthony Montes

FOCH Bermudez, Jerelina Oliveria and Amy Gapuz

THE PENINSULA Manila team Ashley Gill David Batchelor with wife Marilou, Mariane Gutierrez, Mary Lun

NIKE Jardin

ANTORI Huang and Marivic Puyat-Limcaoco

SUSAN Calo-Medina and Tourism Undersecretary Edu Jorgue

PATRICE Ramos-Diaz, Feb Alimoso and Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot

HSBC's Johanna Garcia

IMDI Marion scientific-territorially gentlemen

LOUIE Cruz with SPM, TSVP Wilma Salvador (second from right), Darlington Jorus and Bigi Lara

MARK Higgins and Ana Belong

PADLO Prieto, Joana Lopez and Raja Laurel

NOKIA marketing head Sandeep Khanna, Br Vicki Belo, Ingrid Go and Swatch's Virgie Ramos

JENA Lopez and kids Blade, Sabrina and Ina

ANNETH Ocampo

JULIUS and Shelley Mejico

JOY Buenaventa, Tess Tolentino and Annie Reyes

PHILIP Bermudez (center) with Citibank's Sonja and Mina Velera

CHARISSE Gordon and Sean Javier

Mikiboi de Venecia

AUREA and Marina Xiana Burgos

MACY Abrera, Bodji Lapuz and Mario Kristjobi

CLIFT Au, Erica Santo, Olivia Au and Christine Quintessa

GABY de Lt-Marcel | GEORGINA Wilson | INGRID Klein | DAVID and Mia Kaufmann | EMMA Rose Pobre-gos | CARMENCITA Sison | GIAN Kuzeni | MAUREEN Chua | NIKKI Malpe

Style statement. . .

From page 61

Siemens, and Penna with tracksuits Aeron and Randy Ortiz. *Mixed the fashion rapport* in this Friday's (where's the show and theme.)

"Fitness Fashion" also served a soap with the runway debut of Sienna on, (banker and sports advocate her. Pia Cayetano. Other gems models were Alvira Thompson, amparita Cargo, Ri-ardo, Paolo Merida, Phoenella Bautista, Arvelous Daniela, Jenna Lopez, Xinhong Bee, Ruby Cua, Joy Ameica, Tobias Cuaco, sarvalli quinto Tavera ie de Leon Gonzalez and apples Alanis Andrews, and Inquirer's own Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Irene Cargo.

The show was supported by Elevat Pluls and Smooth.

ADRIANO Kanzaburo and Shirlee Lee | MIA Berenson | ANTONI Mendoza | CORELLA Lizardo | IPE Cruz and Ching Cruz | BECKY Garcia | JOSEPHINE del Salleys

Celebrating Bastille Day in Cebu

CEBU CEBU

Leisure Piccornell

BASTILLE DAY ON JULY 14 IS THE National Day of France. In Cebu, it was celebrated a few days earlier with the presence of French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel who came with his wife Ming Chesnel and their daughter Kristen.

The event was hosted by Les Amis de la France, president Michel Houillier and his wife Jacqueline Llamas Houillier. She was chic as ever in black grosgrain.

For women, they chose one of their treasures, Nina. It offers *nouvelle cuisine* the Filipino way. José del Prado holds sway there and on this occasion surpassed himself.

Guests gathered at the grassy floor square and which also doubles as wine cellar. Gourmet waiters served flutes filled with fine champagne Moët & Chandon and dainty canapés. In a given moment, everyone was asked to go up the magnificent staircase to the disinherited hall for buffet dinner.

Leading the way were Ambassador Chesnel and family. They were welcomed by Judge Rosmedi Sevilleja, secretary/treasurer of Les Amis. It was first meeting for VIPs were assigned specific duties. Thus, Ambassador Chesnel was between two beauties—Cebu Governor Dumedalyn Garcia, and Cebu City First Lady Margot Osmeña.

Congressman Eduardo Rodlas and his wife Norma Saffira Gullas were along the same line as Michel and Jacqueline as well as Les Amis directors Mayen Tan and Honey Loop. Vice Mayor Michael Rama came in a bit later and settled near the Countess of Sikatuna (that's a pun's name).

Honorary French Consul Richard Pérenne in town accompanied Rosmedi and Linda Sevilleja, executive director of the French language and cultural center of Cebu. Alice Garcia, the school's director, was present, too.

Program

A brief program highlighted the session. The national anthems of the Philippines and France were sung a capella by two pretty girls in elaborate Filipiniana attire, Rhea Mae Jadilla and Rhea Jane Kalaisanen, granddaughters of Judge Sevilleja.

Ambassador Chesnel was all praises for them, most specially for the flawless French pronunciations, and the number of nuances from "La Marseillaise." In his speech, the ambassador took the opportunity to announce that Rosemary Grand Rowan will soon relocate to Paris and that Michel Houillier has been appointed to the post soon.

Apply enough, Michel will set up the Honorary Consulate in the spacious Les Amis facility at the QC pavilion along Concrete avenue. The place is abuzz with activity as a large number of students have enrolled for French lessons in various levels.

Aside from Louis Thevenin and Alice Cuaso, Les Amis counts with Melandrea Hammacher, Estefanie Dayrit, Mary Ann Formgio, Sonia Bellosa, Ismael Mangay, and Lourdes Abad, who is most welcome as a volunteer. Thanks to galleon Frenchmen Michael Jourdan, Les Amis in Cebu swims with a rich mix.

There is a membership drive for Les Amis de la France in Cebu, and Louis Thevenin has many plans. The organization recently tied-up with the Arts Council for a series of French cultural events that were very successful.

The guitar playing Boyle brothers packed quite an audience, as did the film showing of "La Vie en Rose," both held at SM City Cebu. More than 7,000 went to *La Boca de la Monique*, held at Panes, on a very rainy night, and for that thanks are due the owners Edu and Jaja Rama. There came a festival of French films at Ayala Center, some of them captivating IMO.

Friends of France in Cebu remind like to metamorphose into an intense Francophile, it will come in due time. Michel and Jacqueline assure us.

CEBU City Vice Mayor Michael Rama and Ambassador Gerard Chesnel

GLENN and Honey Loop, with Ram Hazel, general manager of the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel

Beijing where it sizzles

In this once-forbidding city, the world comes to play for two weeks this month

Text and photos by Constantino C. Tejero

ONE IMPRESSION OF BEIJING is that it is forbidding. Its structures are gray-bulking monoliths, particularly the government buildings. And its people look grim-faced and more reclusive than those, for instance, in Taipei and Shanghai.

In China's 3,000 years of history, and since this city was made its capital some 800 years ago, one of the visions that stay forever in the foreigner's mind is of bloodshed—the Boxer Rebellion, which laid siege

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Beijing where it sizzles

Pretzage F1

GUARDED soldier at Tian'anmen Square

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo ARE ANIMALS!"

ACROSS

1 Hexapodal
6 Vehicle
10 Cover, and 3-D Cases, works after each Spell
14 Tennis legend Arthur
15 Chain coffee
16 One of "Lost"
20 Shower cleaner
21 — 1600 (Theater near London)
22 Vote, e.g.
23 Channel called "Eco"
24 Casino group
27 Travel word
28 Nation's coffee
29 Let go of
31 Apologize to a supervisor
32 Well spoken
33 Old Bill
34 Chicken corn
35 Ab-libs?
37 Old in Arles
38 Upset
42 Scam-ming
43 "The Bridge" star
46 "Zen & Outer Space" author
47 Holding for ransom, say
48 Gas money, e.g.
50 "Animal" group
52 Spinning apparatus in dressmaking
55 Lavish one's milk
57 Roads
61 Chin-stroker
62 Ancient Greek colony
64 Pre-Columbian
66 Actress Lindenbergh
68 Lacking energy
71 Monetary penalty
73 Hoofing
74 Ingredient in chocolate
76 "Cheers" waitress
77 Hoofing
78 Ingredient in chocolate
82 Actor Dunn
83 Pre-Columbian
84 Tolkien creature
85 Hoofing
87 Old Bill
89 "The Chronicles of Riddick" star
90 "The Good Earth" novelist
91 Hoofing
92 Gas money, e.g.
93 "Animal" group
94 Chocolate
95 Tolkien creature
96 Large TV order
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100 Tolkien creature

so foreign ingredients and had to tie you down only by an international expeditionary force.

And then, all of a sudden, the tourist centers have to play and the battle cry is "One World, One Dream"—the slogan of the 2008 Olympic Games, which opens in Beijing on 8-8-2008, or ring. It means the origin origin. A propitious number.)

One might say it's an empire dream. We're rather more cluttered by the adages ubiquitous all over the city, such as this one, only large across an old building in a busy intersection: "Mastery comes today, tradition ensures civilization."

Natural poetry

Such solemn maxims are taken instead of lightly in this land of sages, along with the natural poetry of its people. As in the names of those secondhand stores in the financial district: Everbright Bank, Dazzle Jewelry Shop.

Or a bar one saloon near embassy row: New Peking Styling Hair; Silk Flora Embroidery. And this joint in the hot-tub Pure Girl Bar. The poetry can be found even in the supermarkets: Carefree Coffee; Golden Bread; Iron Sensation.

Naturally it creeps up to the culinarts and counterpoint: Hundred Birds Orchard; Jujube Picking Garden; Sweet Milk Residence, and this is not mentioning those humorously contrived and historical aesthetics, such as the Red Sandalwood Mansion, the White Cloud Temple.

Positively Chinese, yes, and frequently making one's ears ruel. But wait till you're ready from these people can even exhibitionistic, as in that remarkable shop Comfort Shoes.

Shopping and dining

There are the signs of the times the tourist is likely to encounter all over the city this week, along with the emblem called Dancing Beijing, an abstracted image combining a cart, a Chinese character and the Olympic rings, and the totem masters Bebel (the Bird, Beijing (the jasmin), Huanhuan (the Olympic flame), Yingying (the swallow) and Yingying (the Tibetan antelope... see? There is part of the Games).

Olympic T-shirts and key souvenirs can be had quite cheap from itinerary vendors on the streets, but the official store of top quality are best bought at Silk Street Market in the Central Business District. Here you can get anything from Mongolian hats to silk and The Lotus Leaf Book of, in jade, silk, tea and rice to tea. Chinese acquired in Beijing's own versions of Silicon Valley.

We tuck bottom bargains, go to the numerous flea markets such as Panjiayuan, but be careful with the haggling. If you're not buying anything, just quietly walk away. Because these people can make a scene so much more dramatically than the Vietnamese vendors.

Shop only for those you can't find in Manila, such as local products, as most items here are a little pricier. In the supermarkets, a canister of potato chips is 55 RMB (7 yuan or $10) to 100 RMB, and a bundle of birds nest is 1,500 RMB.

A Szechuan dinner of five dishes with a bottle of beverage in a western eatery is 75 RMB. The Bigfoot is 30 RMB plus 2 RMB per kilometer. If you know your way around, go by bus for 1.11 RMB and by subway for 2 RMB, or by bicycle for 0 RMB today.

Wining and partying

For hip entertainment, fine dining and people-watching, go to clubs, restos and bistros such as Lan, Block A, Centro, The World of Suzie Wong, Jiehfuce, Ms. Lolmei, Le Bar des Anges, Whampoa, Cargo, Iria.

Some of these are trendy even-tured homes, apparently heritage structures, but you'd be surprised to find out that the interiors have been designed by a Philippe Starck or a Antonio Thompo.

For all-the-way entertainment, try what locals call The Stones. These clubs and bars along Houhai Lake have arranged plastic tubes into seatable, looking as if ready for some right from on the sidewalk.

Hostess and capitable hosts would be embarrassed to discover that among the most happening places in the city are those flashy bistros and wine bars in the historic, dense entertaining alleyways of Old Beijing tossed with Soulbi houses.

This is the counterpoint of our centuries and squalors' area—but no hint the Chinese have turned them into value around constantly become vintage days.

Cultural landmarks

If you're culturally inclined, you may want to watch the Peking opera at the Imperial Granary, or the Chinese acrobats at the Universal Theatre. Or risk any of the museums and art galleries such as the Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art and the Working People's Culture Palace.

If you have longer hours during breaks in the Games, you must see at least five landmarks: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, and the Great Wall, of course. Without having seen any one of them, it's as if you haven't been to Beijing.

China is now second to Mainstream as a new superpower on the rise. We see only signs, because based on just those five heritage sites, China had been a superpower ages and civilizations ago.

More probably is to be more scientific theory in world economy that has recognized that irrational egalitist. The so-called proletariat now is seen to be gang of capitalist (which it purportedly terminates).

Of the country's 1.3 billion people, 11 million live in Beijing—across can imagine if even only a third of them are entrepreneurs and what else can do to the economy. And that's not counting the foreign investors.

We'd rather call it China's neo-imperialism. That is palpably evident in

THE RED flag flies before the Forbidden City.

FREE COFFEE DAY. On August 10, be one of the 500 to get a free gift certificate from participating coffee shops in Bonifacio High Street. Watch out for details in this newspaper on August 9.

For STI-WCB Permit No. NS-0000, Series of 2008

Camarines Sur is new Waterworld

LIMESTONE HAVEN. The Caramoan Peninsula is a cluster of islands in a 4,000-hectare limestone forest.

By Anne A. Jardaleza

The province has seen the highest growth in tourist arrivals. And more foreigners are coming to get wet and wild

IT TOOK A GRAND VISION to pluck a province from obscurity. But this young governor's ambition and foresight made his place a winner—locally and internationally.

Camarines Sur, now better known by its hippie nickname "Camsur," is the place to be for adventure and excitement. The Camsur Watersports Complex (CWC) recently hosted the World Wakeboarding Championship. It's the first-ever for an Asian country to host a championship that is held only every three years.

"The Philippines is a beautiful country, we have one of the best beaches and exciting tourist destinations. When I smelled even a nugget, something distinct from the rest of the provinces," said Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte Jr.

The site hosting CWC, located within the Provincial Capitol Complex, Cadiz, Pili, Camarines Sur, opened to the public in 2006. It is a mere 20-minute ride from Naga City (located in central (Right) from Manila or Naga is only 30 minutes long), or an eight-hour bus ride from Manila.

With its six-point cable ski course, it quickly gained respect from wakeboarding associations and enthusiasts around the world that in just two years, it was the bid to host the world championship. (A six-point cable ski system executes a better pull as that boosting the sport is easier, Villafuerte said.)

An island in the middle also washes the water, so there are no chops and bumps. Riders are as smooth as they can get, and an inch cable better performed with or without using the wakeboard obstacles (ramps). It is precisely for this reason that CWC has earned the accolades of over-the-most federation wakeboarding organizations worldwide.

Accommodation is readily available through the Knowledge Mansion Suites, and soon to open luxury villas and suites located within the complex. "Our biggest challenge right now is accommodation. We have 115 rooms but with the rising demand we need to build 150 more," he said.

All watersports

One can play cable ski, wakeboard, kneeboard, water ski and wake skate in just one destination, at an affordable rate of P125/hour. Villafuerte said wakeboarding is accessible to anyone. (Rates abroad are US$30 and Euro 24 per hour.) Even better, the fees already include basic equipment, instructions and safety tips from resident trainers.

The complex has a Pro Shop sole place with the latest technology in gear, a clubhouse with live entertainment, billiards, darts and football, spa pavilions for massage, beach volleyball area and swimming pool, a watersports zone boasts of banana jetsa, a popular fare among vegetarians, Wi-Fi capabilities an elevated spectator area.

In just two years, said Villafuerte, CWC's dream that today would be the Orlando Watersports Complex in the U.S., the birthplace of wakeboarding.

"This is the biggest world championship event in history, in terms of the number of participants and the countries represented," said Ilocanon Federation, president, World Wakeboarding Association.

Villafuerte said it was his son who first challenged him to the sport a couple of years ago. Always one to never say no to a challenge, he tried it once and was really hooked, he added.

"So there I was, looking for a distinct adventure my province would be known for, when my son challenged me to try wakeboarding. I thought, if I can get addicted to that sport, video people can, too," Villafuerte said.

Being in a tropical country helped as even more adventure-seeking tourists. Watersports round the place from October to March when lakes in the West would freeze for the winter. Month to June would see locals, old citizens and newbies, teaming the sport. July to August, summertime in western countries, would also see many tourists.

There's more than watersports in Camsur, Villafuerte said. There's the famous Caramoan Peninsula where the French version of the reality TV series "Survivor" was shot. There are hot springs, waterfalls, rock climbing, ziplining, wall on Cota Beach, sportsdiving, bird-watching at Camsur's National Park, dolphin watching for Isaka Pacific Ecotourism and guided dolphins. The province also has a deer farm owned and operated by the government.

"The family will never run out of things to do here," Villafuerte said. "Foreigners who come for more wakeboarding realize there's more to Camsur than watersports, and bring their families the next time they visit."

Cardinal knew the Phs, 1 destination is Bicol. In just two years, it has seen a 7% percent growth in tourist arrivals. It is now awarded to Boracay in terms of guests.

RIDING THE WAKE. Wakeboarders from around the world have found a new playground destination at the CWC in Camsur.

DEER ME. Once at the Deer Farm are rusa and sambar fed by visitors.

NATURE TRIP. It is a country's stopopportunity in Camsur, with mountain-climbing/trekking trails, waterfalls, hot springs, rock-climbing and more.

ABOVE. Gov. Lray Villafuerte in the cover of Metroadvisor, below, Innovative marvelshots this fellow wakeboarder

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Opus Dei prelate gets warm reception in Manila

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN 10 years, Opus Dei prelate Javier Echevarría visited the Philippines on July 27-Aug. 3. As the July 30 afternoon get-together in the SMX Exhibit Halls. Central Luzon's information officer of Opus Dei, estimated the crowd at 10,000.

Before coming to Manila, Echevarría was in New Delhi, Hong Kong, Macau, Sydney and Auckland. He left Manila for Tuesday to be in Singapore and Montreal. It was a pastoral visit to the Opus Dei in the Philippines, their families and friends. He also visited many social and educational projects. Accompanying him was Msgr. Joseph Durán, regional vicar of Opus Dei for the Philippines.

As prelate, Echevarría is the spiritual father to the members of Opus Dei in 78 countries. His vicars to be with his children and to personally confirm them in their vocations to serve the Church and society. In the talks in the fields, gatherings, he or part his children to encourage their daughters and sons of God. Bishop Echevarría is the third prelate of Opus Dei; the first was St. Josemaría Escrivá who was ordained by Bro Aloso Obviso who was ordained by Bro Aloso Obviso who was ordained on June 26, 1975. Bishop Dorello died in March 1994.

Participants in the gathering were people from all walks of life, some coming from Mexico and Moldavia.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Gervero

History

As early as the mid-1940s, the founder of Opus Dei, Josemaría Escriva had already been acquainted by Alberto Bolotlo, a Spaniard who had settled in the island of Negros, to send people of Opus Dei to the Philippines. At the time, however, Opus Dei was focused on work of evangelization in Western Europe and the Americas.

The apostolate then came when two young Filipinas, Bernardo Villegas and Jesus Ipiñazar, returned to the Philippines in 1964 from their studies at Harvard University in the US. While at Harvard, the two of them attended activities organized by Opus Dei at Matthews' University Center, located in the very heart of campus. They later joined Opus Dei.

BISHOP Javier Echevarría, prelate of Opus Dei, accepts welcome gifts from children of Opus Dei supernumeraries.

In 1964, the apostolate of Opus Dei started in a small home on C. Arnáiz Street in Legaspi, Makati, close to some colleges where some of the first members of Opus Dei were studying. Villegas and Ipiñazar were joined in late 1964 by two priests from Spain: Fr. José Morales and Fr. Javier de Pedro, and a young engineer, Mariano Jose Gómez. By April 1965, the apostolic activities moved to a bigger house in Makati where the Maryhill Study Center became a venue for education and training of both university students and professional men.

Women

In October 1965, Sole Rondo, Lali Ramos and Maria Teresa Barrera arrived from Spain to start the work of Opus Dei with women. Through the help of Doña Lupe Lovegra, whom they had met in Madrid, a modest house was acquired in Leon Guinto Street in Singalong, Manila.

Ester Villegas was the first Filipina female student in your Opus Dei in December of that year. When the Maryhill School of Home and Fine Arts for women was established in 1966, the apostolic activities with married women and home helpers began. Tanglaw Residence for female students was established in 1967.

During the meeting with Echevarría, Chito Lali, Isabel, who told us she came to the Philippines in 1965 when she was 22 years old. Rivera asked her through a friend of hers that she join Opus Dei.

Originally from Bacolod, Lolibao worked with Opus Dei for the past 40 years. One of the reasons, she said, she didn't stay was cancer. Also afternoon was because many both rich and ordinary people, were interested in this area of life. Something caused the rough one's work by offering one's job as a service for the greater glory of God, instead of just making money, both one to a spiritual path.

University of Asia

In August 1967, Echevarría and Villegas established a business and economic think tank called Center for Research and Communication (CRC), which would later on develop into a full-blown university, the University of Asia and the Pacific, in 1995.

CRC was an instrument for Opus Dei to carry the Church to the workplace, imparting Catholic teachings to professionals in journalism, law, business, education and other professions.

It is not true that Opus Dei is only for the elite. There are much diverse, trade and artisan's people who attend Opus Dei activities, according to them.

Our Lady of Buen Suceso

The Diocese of Parañaque and the Cathedral Parish of St. Andrew will celebrate the feast of its beloved patroness Nuestra Señora del Buen Suceso on Aug. 10.

Several activities have been lined up for the celebration, which includes an exhibit on the history of the Basilica from Aug. 1-15, and Misteria Misaia Aug. 1-9, 6 p.m.

On Aug. 9, the Rosario Cantada will be held at the cathedral. The Solemn High Mass on the Feast Day will be celebrated by Parañaque Bishop Jesse Mercado Aug. 10, 10 a.m.

Capping the celebration will be the procession in honor of the Buen Suceso at 6 p.m. All Misaia devotees are invited to take part in the celebration.

Fiesta Misaas

Here is the schedule of the Buen Misaas of St. Philomena on Aug. 1-9: Msgr. Edmon A. Gregorio, 6 a.m.; Fr. Eli Mesa, SVD, 9 a.m.; Archbishop Edwin Joseph Adams, 12 noon; Fr. Orlando C. Acosta, DD, 4 p.m., and Fr. Michell Joe B. Zerrudo, 6:30 p.m.

Fiesta dinner and Zarzuela on the opening day of the Universal Living Rosary Association.

Fr. Glenn Orozco is the parish priest of the Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Mountaintop, Quezon City.

Sto. Domingo Bota

Fr. Homer Pilotapia, parish priest of Sto. Domingo de Guzman in Mexico, Pampanga, will lead parishioners in the celebration of the feast day of Sto. Domingo with a fiesta Mass Aug. 8, 6 p.m.

Mass celebrants are Fr. Marcos Alandoni and Fr. Dan Bryan. Novena Masses are ongoing until Aug. 7, 6 p.m. Sor Bernarda Bellido, OP, is the preacher. There will then the procession Aug. 9 followed by Mass at 6 p.m.

Appeal for aid

Fr. Jun Arabis, Comadrones, seeks the support among the faithful in the celebration of the patron saints of St. Andrew which is in front of the parish rectory. Those who wish to help can see Fr. Edison Bernardo, parish priest, at 632-3868570.

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Forecast P3

Beijing's rapid development, and not only for the Olympics but also because of, as experts, this seismic zone of imperial birthplace, the sense of prestige and supremacy.

Chinese officials have cleverly used technology and architecture to send their message across, as they carve their Olympic legacy.

Architectural marvels

These marvels of new technology and design have become familiar crowd-pleasers even to local tourists. They come in hordes to see the Olympic venues, from traditional to cutting-edge feats, some even as complex and as relentless.

Two of the most recognizable structures of the Summer Games venue can be found near China Agricultural University. The most popular is the Beijing National Stadium, also called the Bird's Nest, designed by Herzog & De Meuron with Arup and the China Architecture Design & Research Group. The other is the National Aquatics Center, or the water Cube, from world-renowned architectural firm, PTW.

Another new marvel of architecture is the odd-shaped China Central Television building, or CCTV, designed by Rem Koolhaas and Ole Shoenis. The has been selected among the Top 100 buildings in design by Architecture, building it, in shadow is like something from Magritte—imagine the Book of Genesis burning above your head.

The host of Chinese juggernaut must be the new Capital International Airport, designed by Norman Foster. Touted as the biggest airport terminal in the world, it is the ultimate symbol of China's new superpower.

In this mad rush to build, Beijing's aberrations are numerous and humorous. Skyscrapers seem to be simply competing in spanning historical and cultural landmarks. However, rapid development doesn't necessarily mean one succeeding the other.

In fact, we see the modern and the ancient symbiotically coexisting, as the palaces and temples clashes with the malls and high-rises, or in the escalating Beijing along a street surveying by a—what?—close-moving vessel from the Gods Beast.

But about encapsulates everything under heaven, in this city of metaphors and excesses.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Rosendo G. Policarpio

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- Giving till it hurts OnlyInHollywood /p14

YUMTERTAINMENT

Pinakamasarap Talaga Ang Jollibee Langhap-Sarap!

Basta burger, dapat Jollibee Yumburger.

Stars from rival networks pay tribute to a legend

Hail to the King

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Ruth Espiritu

IN SPITE OF THE FLAGS, floods and traffic jams, they all came to pay homage to the king of comedy, Dolphy.

The historic farewell was caught in a gridlock for two hours, while some stars literally crossed rivers on foot to participate in the TV special, entitled "Dolphy: The King of Comedy... at Iba Pa," which was taped at the Araneta Theater on Thursday. (It goes on air tonight on ABS-CBN.)

Comedians Vic Sotto and Redford "Kuya Bodet" White, who are both identified with rival network GMA-7, taped separate segments for the show before leaving the set.

Kapuso's prime talent Richard Gutierrez, who composed and sang the leading love song for ABS-CBN's Comedy Queen Dolphy, "when come into my life," also left the set to watch the show" in front of his TV.

CROSSING Channels 5 Concepcion and Richie D'Horsie "came just to watch the show"

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Cinemalaya winner: Tilt was tough

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FRANCIS XAVIER MARIO, DIRECTOR OF Cinemalaya Best Film winner "Ang" was candid that this year's competition was especially tough.

"Everyone deserved to win," he told reporters. Announcements only minutes after winning the top prize on July 20.

He said all 10 finalists in the full-length category worked hard to finish their entries. "Everyone gave their best to their films," Perez said.

However, he cautioned that what made his film stand out was "the uniqueness of [the] storytelling." The theme of this year's festival, referred to a celebration of the Pinoy narrative.

Celebration of challenges

Brad Sta. Ana, co-director of "Ending Beatrix," which won Best Cinematography along with "Barang," pointed out that the mixed digital feats made a celebration of the "challenges and joys of the filmmaking process."

Sta. Ana explained, "Each director's experience is both unique and comparable with the other filmmakers." Cinematographer Neil Daza together, he said.

Jay Abello, who directed "Branca," was in for his work in absence of cinematographer "Boyet."

He told the reporters that he's brought a second for difficult to finish the next films especially since "Barang" joined the readers as a last minute replacement for an entry that backed out.

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GALLERIA

1 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

3 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

4 THE DARK KNIGHT

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

7 KALABAL

8 DARK JOB / MAMMA MIA!

10 ADAM and STEVE

ERMITA

1 THE MUMMY: Tomb of the Dragon emperor

2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

3 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

4 THE DARK KNIGHT

5 MEET DAVE / MAMMA MIA!

6 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

7 KALABAL

8 ADAM and STEVE

METRO EAST

1 PROM NIGHT / MEET DAVE

2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

3 THE DARK KNIGHT

4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

5 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

6 ADAM and STEVE

7 MAMMA MIA!

8 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

NOVALICHES

1 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

2 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

4 THE DARK KNIGHT

PIONEER

1 THE MUMMY 3

2 THE MUMMY 3

3 THE MUMMY

4 THE DARK KNIGHT

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STA. ROSA

1 THE MUMMY 3

2 THE DARK KNIGHT

3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

4 LOST in BEIJING

LIPA

1 THE MUMMY 3

2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

3 THE DARK KNIGHT

4 THE HOTTIE and the NOTTIE

5 THE MUMMY 3

DASMARIÑAS

1 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

2 THE HOTTIE and the NOTTIE

3 THE DARK KNIGHT

4 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR

IMUS

1 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

2 THE DARK KNIGHT

3 THE MUMMY 3

4 LOST in BEIJING

ANGELES

1 THE MUMMY

2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

3 JOURNEY to the CENTER of the EARTH

4 THE DARK KNIGHT

STARMILLS

1 HAROLD and KUMAR

2 JOURNEY to the CENTER of the EARTH

3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

4 THE DARK KNIGHT

5 THE MUMMY 3

6 THE MUMMY 3

BACOLOD

1 THE MUMMY 3

2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

3 THE MUMMY 3

4 THE DARK KNIGHT

5 MAMMA MIA!

6 HAROLD and KUMAR

ILOILO

1 THE MUMMY

2 MEET DAVE

3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

4 MAMMA MIA!

5 THE HOTTIE and the NOTTIE

6 THE DARK KNIGHT

GUESTS Robert Asuncion, Barbara Perez and Bibi Ocha. Several business, movies and politics personalities, Susan Roces, Gabby Lopez, Dolphy and Joseph Estrada.

Hail to the King

From page 01

highlights of the evening were the solo numbers of Eliezer Cuenca and Charlie Green, as well as a 20-minute production number.

"The network's premiere star of drama stars Rayver Cruz, Vhong Navarro, Iya Villania and Bianca Gonzalez recreated Tito Dolphy's most memorable dance numbers from the movies," recounted Esperanza.

Bernard Bajamundi co-hosts Carina Marvin and Roderick Paulate also reminisced in their dance number, while Ai Ai de las Alas brought the house down in her "Bestfest Bikini" segment.

Dance highlights the King's humorous (and gift) to an all-time-favorite movie on the beside/ stage, and Esperanza.

"Unlike in other birthday specials, Tito Dolphy wasn't required to participate and watched the show with the audience," she related. "He only went on stage for the finale."

To say the evening, Dolphy joined Willie Revillame in a rousing duet-dance number.

"We could really feel the sincere and respect for Tito Dolphy," Esperanza exclaimed. "Everyone got emotional and many cried."

Email: bayanmo@inquirer.com.ph

BIG DAYS Randolph and Iya Villania

DAWN Zulueta, Rubenchi Paulate

DANCERS Iya Villania, Polo Ravago, Carina Martin and Vhong Navarro. The King and Pops Dolphy shares the screen with Willie Revillame.

Cinemalaya winner: Tilt was tough

From page 01

in its speech, he said he had been telling everyone that "Summer" because he considered Tara Illenberger's "Summer" as an "impostor" film.

Director R. Bayot, whose "Kapitan Awgan" won Special Jury Prize in the Shorts category, said the competition is both "an open door and a learning experience for a filmmaker from Mindanao like me."

"It's an excellent platform for struggling filmmakers," he said.

He lost on the verge of quitting when two of his films were selected for this year's Shorts competition. His entry is "Nyalo ni Wanay").

"That two of my short films were considered among the top 10 is a sign that I've made the right choice in life and that I must continue pursuing my impossibilities," he said.

Grants, prizes

The Film Development Council of the Philippines contributed P2 million in grants and cash prizes this year.

Arnie Atayde Vega, programmer of the International Forum of New Cinema in the Berlin Film Festival, said the "Cinemalaya that she wasn't back showed that "the level of quality is improving at a high level of quality."

According to Nelson Tan, head of the production and licensing committee, the jury took four hours to deliberate.

"I thought it was six hours," Vega said, in jest. "A day after the deliberation, we were still talking about the films. It wasn't an argument; it was a discussion—an exhilarating exchange. I learned a lot from my fellow jurors."

This year's jury was composed of French critic Max Tessier, Filipino film lovers Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal and actor Cesar Montano.

Montano said Tan does he would like to "nurture young filmmakers like this year's Cinemalaya bunch, the owner of Philippine cinema."

After the awards show, the hard work begins.

Chito Dumlao, who was Best Screenplay and Director for "LSK," related that awards "give an encouragement to the cinema and do well. I hope we can release our films widely."

"LSK" was invited to the Pusan Film Fest in Korea; "Jose" in the Hubbard session of the Miami Film Festival.

Cinemalaya's ongoing workshop run by UP Diliman winds up on Aug. 7.

Deadline of submission of entries for full-length is Sept. 12 and for shorts, Sept. 15, and Best Actress, Cinemalaya coordinator Mercy Jesus's schedules were released last Thursday.

Email: bayanmo@inquirer.com.ph

FILART winner Charlie Green sings "In My World."

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Asean 'super band' has two Pinoys

GENTING, MALAYSIA—TWO Filipino rockers took the stage last night at the 6th MTV Asia Awards (MAX) here, performing in a "super group" called Project Ear (East Asian Revolution).

Jessie Garcia, vocalist, and Leon Antong, guitarist, of the Pinoy rapcore band Slapshock joined fellow musicians from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand in a much-applauded production number meant "to showcase Asian music on a global platform."

The members, a medley of songs in their resident genres—and including Filipino lyrics in joint—wound up second alongside major international acts such as the Scottish R&B sensation Leona Lewis, the hard-rocking Irish group The Script, The Click Five, The Pussycat Dolls and local favorites Philippine rocker Bamboo. As The Times, down-rock singer Jaycee Lees of '98 Seconds or More was the celebrity emcee.

The program was held at Genting Highlands' "Malaysia's city of eccentricity" (3,000 cooperty Arena of Stars)...

MORE >

P35M 'cruise comedy'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THIRTY-FIVE MILLION PESOS was how much a non-Erik Pilato ex-pected the "cruise comedy" "I.T.A.L.I.C." is costing to its producer Antonette Ong-Alcaraz.

"But not without a lot of help from friends," Alcaraz said during the movie presscon last week after a press conference about the 71:01 Island Cruises. "We were able to keep the cost low because we had end up with other production companies and put big discounts."

Alcaraz said the movie's official cruise line, The Costa, helped limit Pilato stresses avoiding pressure in the European countries (but the production was finished).

"The cruise line helped us a lot," Alcaraz explained. "The sets also the movies are shown to make a film in Italy and not to any other European country. Costa was organized there."

STORY >

CROWD: Tolits and Julius Magbanua

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DECEMBER 5, 2008

Bonanza of good news, for a change

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2. THE MUMMY PG-13 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
3. DARK KNIGHT SPG-13 12:00, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30
4. A VERY SPECIAL LOVE GP 2:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
5. THE MUMMY PG-13 12:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Shang Celebrates Art!
Artists Circle: Jeremy Gatdula, August 1 to 6; Estrella Alfon, Level 3
Artists on Awards Exhibit August 1 to 15, Visual Artists, Level 2
Shangri-La Plaza

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PROMENADE
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"THE DARK KNIGHT" IS A TRIUMPHANT PIECE OF FILMMAKING..."
THE DARK KNIGHT

THE ADVENTURE OF A THOUSAND LIFETIMES!
THE MUMMY
TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
PG-13
NOW SHOWING

MOST OF THE TIME, WE GET swamped by a lot of predictably bad news from the music, clueless and unconscious world of show business. Happily this past week, we're tired getting lots of the same—in fact, we're down to one of the rare bonanzas of good news! So, let's celebrate.

Let's kind off start the glowing, inspiring news that Julius Babao's recent benefit art exhibit-sale for Gawad Kalinga on the occasion of his 40th birthday has turned out to be—unbelievably successful.

Artist' wife, Marie Bonacio, happily reports that as of last July 31, the exhibit sale had already raised P2.8 million. The Babaos' EK village's construction will cost P2.55 million (for 20 houses at P65,000 per, at current prices).

But, keep buying those decorated artworks, folks! The exhibit sale runs until Aug. 31.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor C. Torre

because other expenses have to be paid, and the Babaos hope to come out with a coffee table book on their laudable project. Call 8971811 or 7120305.

At TBHS rest habits, "God is good—all the time!" And, we must add, so are people—especially the ones who are helping the Babaos put up their GK village for 20 very blessed families.

Charlie Gross

Let's also thank our lucky stars for Charlie Green, the 11-year-old FB Brit boy who did so well on the TV talent search show "Britain's Got Talent." Charlie is currently in vogue for some engagements and is guesting on some local TV shows.

Charlie is a gift to everyone not only because he sings really well, but because he doesn't go the pa-cute and precocious route that seems to be the rule here for most child singers, actors and dancers. He simply sings well, sensitively and unselfconsciously, and leaves the pa-cute to the TH types.

We hope that, as Charlie conducts to publicity here, other child performers—and their stage mothers and fathers—see the light. Follow his example, drop the icky precocious attitude, and just let you-all belong good child singers, dancers and actors.

It really is the lesser way, you know. Thanks, Charlie Green, for the timely reminders. Easy keeps your clothes neat for the records-lord.

Big break at age 44

Let's hear it, too, for Bobby Sousa, a hairstylist turned-celebrity-chef singer, who at 44, has finally gotten her big break as member TV talent-search, where she's heading for the finals.

What makes reality's "talented and hotmodeled" shows every-even more dramatic is the fact that she became-a-celebrity mother in her 30s—guru her baby daughter up for adoption—and, after she performed on TV, was dramatically reunited with her daughter—after raising-doing more other inspiring-singing stuff-can only dream of!

LT ascending

Finally, back here at home, after the death of husband Rudy Fernandez, Lorna Tolentino is enjoying a recipe to her career, with different major channels trying for her services. It's good, too, that she's giving up hosting a show-biz-oriented talk-variety show to focus at a morning show for homemakers.

Best of all, she's resuming her acting career with new assignments on TV and in the movies. It couldn't happen to a nicer person. And it's proof positive that, after a very difficult time, life doesn't only go on, it goes even better!

This is also turning out to be a good year for Rudy's son, Mark Anthony Fernandez, who after a dry spell, is back to playing a lead role, as Regine Velasquez's "you-have-entered" in Channel 7's teleserye, "Sine si Kim Samsoon." We trust that his good showing on the romantic-comedy TV series will earn-maintain-a production to offer him a comeback movie, as well.

₱35M 'cruise comedy'

From page H1

The film executive said there is a chance that Pinoys in Italy would get to see the movie ahead of its Sept. 17 screening here.

Famous indie actors

"The Italian actors we hired to support the lead cast are famous indie actors there. They're very excited about the project and are helping us with the screenings," Abregat said.

Mark Reyes' "UNLI," which starred Bianca in March, shot in final scenes only three weeks ago. It was shot using a P2 camera, or megapixel recorder.

"We can backdate the screenings because we needed a longer time for post-production to ensure that the movie is of good quality when it's blown up on film."

The multi-million cruise project was originally offered as environmental actor Gabby Concepcion, who earlier said "it was not a good comeback material." Dennis Trillo took over Gabby's role.

Gabby resurfaced on the country early April and has since come out in several shows on rival ABS-CBN. A movie starring the actor to be produced by Star Cinema is also in the offing.

Gabby signed a one-picture contract with Lilit Films that prohibits him from making similar movies until three months after the Regine movie is released.

Judina's film, too

"We had wanted Gina Alajar for his first film [after he left for the States in 1995]. But later that, a Gabby Concepcion film, 'UNLI,' was also supposed to be a Judina thing. Instead, Lilit Films' current offer is a more promising, guesting movie scenario," the film exec explained.

Abregat continued: "Richard Yap is also interested in doing a movie with Lilit Films. We're also talking to Ara Mina to make a full-blown movie with Lilit Films. We're also talking to Ara Mina to make a full-blown movie with Lilit Films. We're also talking to Ara Mina to make a full-blown

UAAN Rosing and Jamie Garcia

Asean 'super band' has two Pinoys

from page H1

"It's a great feeling, Paris, sure ako," said Garcia, who was a core member of the award-winning indie movie "Tribu," which recently won the Youth Jury Award in the Paris Cinema Festival.

The gathering Chinese teen (the year's Favorite Music Artist (Philippines) Award over top contenders Urbandub, Sponge Cola and Sandwich, in that order. The winner was determined by text-vote cast and online voting. There were eight other favorite artist awards from Asia (China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand) and seven International Music awards contested by some very familiar names including Avril Lavigne, Cris Daughtry, Louisa Lewis, Black Eyed Peas and Linkin Park. Each winner received a trophy in the form of a gold (plated) bar and an Emily Monument—chair, Recording Industry Association of Malaysia—and, a spectacular introduction to a much bigger market, starting with the whole of Asia.

Winners will get a spectacular introduction to a bigger market

Monsters cited the case of BP's Kreisberg who won two years in a row (2005 and 2006), and became popular in Indonesia.

Monsters noted that MAP's role is to keep modern Asian music relevant to the international scene.

Ronnie E. Rilloraza

Did You Know...

ENTERTAINMENT highlights during the week of Aug. 5-11.

1962: Marilyn Monroe was found dead in the bedroom of her Los Angeles home. Her death was ruled a "probable suicide" caused by an overdose of sleeping pills. She was 36.

1971: Paul McCartney announced the formation of Wings, which featured his wife Linda on keyboards. Other members included Guitar Wizard Brian guitarist Denny Laine.

1984: Actor Richard Dawson died in a hospital in Geneva. He was 58.

1987: Sid Luy, band crooned to "Elenorie" album.

1994: "Stay(I Miss You)" by Lisa Loeb and Nine Stories hit No. 1 on the pop charts. It was the first No. 1 single by an unsigned act.

1999: Country/soul singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia died of a heart attack while undergoing drug rehabilitation. He was 53.

2000: Actor Alec Guinness died in southern England at the age of 86.

2002: Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman were divorced after eleven years of marriage.

AP

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'Giving till it hurts' doesn't hurt

LOS ANGELES—WHILE THE Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) lost about $6 million in interest income for when its Golden Globe Awards show on NBC was canceled due to the writers strike, the press group did not want the charities and not-for-profit organizations that it supports to be empty-handed this year.

In a statement, HFPA president Aida Comeau said, "Despite last January's cancellation of the annual Golden Globe Awards due to the Writers Guild strike that curtailed the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's income, we're delighted to honor our ongoing commitment to support entertainment industry-related film school and not-for-profit organizations. Over the past several years, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Foundation has presented more than $7.5 million in financial grants to dozens of film schools and not-for-profit organizations."

Heeding the old adage of giving till it hurts, the HFPA dipped from its savings and gave $750,000 in financial grants to various causes in the years that also honored the organization's 2006-2007 elected officers.

Celebrity supporters

Helping announce grants were Aaron Eckhart and Jon Kamen, two actors who are starring in the hottest movie and TV show these days—"The Dark Knight" and "Mad Men," respectively. Among those who accepted the checks on behalf of the grants were Chris "Ludacris" Bridges (Film Independent, Inc.), Sharon Stone (Independent Pictures Project), Rosa Salazar (University of California, Los Angeles), Nathan Fanning (California State Summer School for Filmmakers), Chris Metzler (Sundance Institute), Elizabeth Perkins (National Association of Latino Independent Producers), and Rosie Perez (Native Can Arts).

The beneficiaries ranged from top film schools in the US to Filmlab Sarajevo, which from The Sharon Film School, Inc. to Sweetgale Production Assistant Program, Inc., which provides job training and placement to underrepresented populations in LA. While the bulk of the donations are headed out in the area of handouts, HFPA responds year-round to help in disaster relief campaigns and non-film related charities like Doctors Without Borders and Actors Against Hunger.

Daily Variety paid tribute to HFPA philanthropic efforts by running it in the publication's Beneficiary of the Year Anniversary publication. Penny Lee gave HFPA Head Cathy Henkel a check for $20,000 to encourage the group's endeavors next.

Variety, in an article written by David Mermelstein, said, "The Hollywood Foreign Press Association knows well philanthropy's great dichotomy—that it takes money to get money, you're rarely feted for grandstanding, while it's way cool (and chic) to be a closet do-gooder, and you get rewarded. The org is best known for the annual Golden Globe Awards, yet the HFPA also is a generous benefactor to many charities associated with film education."

Lifesaving scholarships

Mermelstein quoted Steve Asbell, dean of the renowned USC School of Film/Video (whose mom of Peter's alumni runs Entertainment Tonight, one of HFPA's beneficiaries, as saying, "These scholarships are lifesavers—literally. They have made it possible for students from around the world to come to USC to study with some extraordinary and tremendously talented staff and faculty."

Being a Hollywood event, the luncheon wasn't all serious and solemn. Reese Witherspoon, who wore a white tube dress by Turkish, asked onstage to "clothe it sound better." Then, "I am in my own because I know he is looking at my butt." The rapper-actor took the cue to

Shelley V. Nicholes

> The press group did not want the charities it supports to be empty-handed this year

ACCLAIMED young actress Gabrielle Fleming wins rollicking

ROSARIO Dawson walks on the red carpet at the Beverly Hills Hotel

look on approximately. But as Reese somehow managed to walk down the stage in nine-inch-high stilettos, he said, "I am sorry but I was not looking at your butt. I was quite."

Jon Kamen, who won a Golden Globe last January for his work in "Mad Men," quipped that his HFPA-related woman usually awaits outcomes. He deadpanned, "First, it was the writers' strike that canceled the Golden Globes. And now, it's the mortgages. I just want to apologize ahead of time for the unwatchable hour this show is bound to cause after the event."

Aaron Eckhart, who is Harvey Dent in the controversial and record hit "The Dark Knight," received a lot of congratulations from the attendees for the film's success. When we asked Aaron why the film resonated so well with movie-goers all over the world, he cited the late Heath Ledger's performance in the film and the story's multi-layered American roots.

Among those in the audience were Halle Berry, Jennifer Hudson and Sabrina Bryan, two of Hollywood's top publicists.

The columnist is an actor raising money for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

E-mail the columnist at rosarioDAWSON@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Rosario Report," on http://blogs.majorsites.com/rosariodawson.

JON Kamen, left, and Chris Meledandri were among the stars who announced grants of over $750,000 for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's (HFPA) to film schools and non-profit organizations.

ROSIE Perez, who turned down the right-wing Tokyo docu, said "The Dark Knight's" Aaron Eckhart